





## HOME NEWS

## Masters call for spring leaving date in schools, but minister rules out early action

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

It was too late to fit legislation for any change in the school-leaving date into the next parliamentary session, Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

The Asst. Masters Association at its annual council meeting in London yesterday had called on the minister to set a common leaving date on the last school day before the spring Bank holiday.

The department is considering this proposal favourably. It would allow some pupils aged 16 to leave after they have taken their examinations instead of staying to the end of the summer term.

The department has found much support for the change among local education authorities and local education officers. At present pupils who become 16 after February 1 must stay at school until July.

Mr Prentice told me that he was still keeping an open mind. The results of the discussion have not yet been analysed and he has still to read a study by school inspectors on the effects of the first year of raising the leaving age.

"We should need legislation to make any amendment to school leaving dates at all," he said. "It is now pretty clear that

time for this is limited in the current session of Parliament. It follows from this that there would not be any change to affect 1975." Mr Prentice remains opposed to any major changes in the reform which was carried out last year.

The conference rejected a motion from the Gloucestershire branch that the leaving age should be reduced to 15 until the economic climate eased. In proposing it, Mr Donald Pickles, of Cheltenham, said teachers had been forced to fall back on "chalk and talk" lessons for pupils over 16 who wanted to leave and who were the least able to learn from that type of lesson.

An earlier motion from Avon branch regretting that the raising of the leaving age to 16 was introduced without the support of most teachers and without any real understanding of the educational implications was not put to the vote.

Mr David Harris, Bristol, said most teachers with whom he had spoken believed that the age was raised to keep down the unemployment figures and to retain children in school rather than at job centres. "They did not give us the equipment to carry out the job," he added.

Mr Robert Leahy, Liverpool, said they could not possibly go back on raising the school-leaving age after only a year of experience. Mr Ian Potts,

Ealing, said it would make unemployment much worse to lower the age.

Mr Bruce Heather, Durham, said a common leaving date before the spring Bank holiday would encourage pupils who would have left at Easter to stay on and take some CSE examinations. It would also prevent those who had taken CSE from staying on similarly until the end of term.

"Blacklist" questions: Mr Prentice is to be questioned in the Commons after the Christmas recess about a confidential "blacklist" of teachers said to be circulating among education authorities (the Press Association reports). "It is called List 99, and that adds to the sinister overtones," Mr Phillip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby, North, said yesterday.

Mr Whitehead has tabled questions asking for details of the list which, he says, is compiled by the department and applies to all teachers below the level of university teachers.

He said: "I agree there ought to be some sort of blacklist giving the names of people who have committed serious moral and political offences, whatever they may be. I shall want to know what the ministry's criterion is for these so-called offences when they compile or update the list."

## Englishman shares chess lead at Hastings

From Harry Golombek  
Chess Correspondent

The lead at the end of round two in the premier chess tournament at Hastings yesterday was shared between Roman (USSR) with 14 points each, but they should be joined by the Swedish Grandmaster, Ulf Andersson, when he finishes his adjourned game against Stean from round one.

Stean played imaginative chess in defeating the Yugoslav Grandmaster, Plavinec, in 30 moves. Another good home victory was Botterill's win against the strong Czechoslovak Grandmaster, Hort.

Beljarsky, who with Tal, the former world champion, is the Soviet co-champion, won securely against Resnais and already looks a likely first prize-winner.

Results, round one:

White	Black	Opening	Result
Roman	Stean	K. Gambit	Draw
Beljarsky	Resnais	Queen's P.	Draw
Botterill	Hort	Sicilian def.	Draw
Plavinec	Stean	Sicilian def.	Draw
Andersson	Stean	Sicilian def.	Draw
Stean	Andersson	Queen's P.	Draw
Hort	Beljarsky	King's P.	Draw
Resnais	Botterill	King's P.	Draw

Results, round two:  
Botterill Hort W won  
G. Garcia Roman W won  
Plavinec Stean W won  
Andersson Stean W won  
Stean Andersson W won  
Hort Beljarsky W won  
Resnais Botterill W won  
Beljarsky Stean W won



Botterill in play against Hort yesterday.

## Farm workers' warning of industrial action leading to food shortage

By Our Labour Staff

Farm workers' leaders are planning a deputation to the Prime Minister to protest at the low level of agricultural wages, and to give warning of possible industrial action by farm workers which could lead to food shortages.

The workers are angry at the new minimum wages set by the Agricultural Wages Board last week, which they say are totally inadequate. The board's award will raise the national weekly minimum for a labourer by £2.30 to £28.50, plus a further £2 next July.

Miss Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, and Yorkshire secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, said yesterday that milk and vegetable

supplies could be disrupted unless the Government acted to improve the wages board award. "The union is consulting all its districts throughout the country on the question of industrial action. There is a greater feeling among the membership at the moment for some form of action than there has ever been," Miss Maynard said. "There were plans to involve all unions with members in food production, distribution and retailing in action to improve farm wages. If this happened fresh produce would soon disappear from the shops, Miss Maynard said."

The union, which represents about a third of the 300,000 agricultural labour force, is seeking a basic weekly rate of £35 for labourers.

## Coal 'the best prospect'

By Our Labour Staff

British energy needs in the next century will have to be met mainly by coal, not by offshore oil and gas, according to Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mine-workers.

Writing in the National Coal Board publication, *Coal and Energy Quarterly*, Mr Gormley calls for an urgent revitalization of the industry to reverse the trend of the past twenty years.

He says the industry should be made the finest in Europe, providing security for workers, the best possible wage, and a secure supply of energy. He continues: "Even if the economy grows at only

a modest rate, and even if the much-needed reserves in the utilization and conservation of successful, the future is bleak. Most of Britain's energy reserves, looking 20 years ahead we can see that at current rates of production the natural gas from the southern section of the North Sea will be exhausted. Also, the production of oil and gas from the north section will have passed its peak, even with the development of new fields."

Huge investments in offshore oil would be needed to yield the equivalent of the hoped-for 150 million tons of coal annually by 1985, Mr Gormley says. And by the year 2000 the end of oil reserves could be in sight, whereas coal reserves would last for another century.

## North Sea oil technology interests scrap merchant

Mr David Nicol, metal merchant and owner of the German Grand Prince, is watching with interest the technical revolution engineers are making in the North Sea. The new devices used by the oilmen to lift weights of up to 2,000 tons at sea could be used to lift his sunken fleet of three battleships and four light cruisers from the bed of Scapa Flow. On the surface, they would be worth between £10m and £12m.

"There is 125,000 tons of scrap metal down there, and 20 per cent of it is non-ferrous. Ship were built like that in those days but the problem has always been getting it 150ft to the surface," he says.

In his scuba gear at Duns, in Fife, are the hull bones of one of the most powerful fleets in the world. The armour plate is valuable because it was manufactured in the days before the atmosphere was polluted by nuclear explosions. The metal is in demand to make screens for radiation equipment because it is uncontaminated.

For the rest, the vessels were built before the First World War, when copper was less than £20 a ton. It now fetches £350.

Mr Nicol's team of divers operate from the island of Hoy. They go down into the clear waters of the Flow and meet the upturned hulls of the German ships 70ft from the surface. The battleships lie like steel whales, 980ft long and 200ft wide. The divers attach explosives to the metal and blast pieces off. It is tough stuff, built to withstand bangs, and when a section comes away it falls another 80ft to the seabed. This allows divers only a limited time to attach flotation bags to bring the metal to the surface. The process is long and difficult.

Mr Nicol believes that the best way would be to use the

## Regional report

Ronald Faux  
Edinburgh

One of the most powerful cranes the oil industry has developed. "New ideas and new capabilities are emerging all the time. Something will work out one day."

The yard under his office is littered with thick slabs of armour plate and 17-ton torpedoes, a slice from which reveals the steam of a boiler. The slabs are the most valuable and least accessible collections of scrap in the world. Inquiries have come from many sources, and ironically the greatest weight of armour plate has gone to a customer in Germany.

The company also secured the right to salvage the remains of the Vanguard, the 19,700-ton British battleship that mysteriously blew up at anchor in November, 1917, with the loss of 800 men. The explosion was so violent that some of the main girders were flung on to the island of Flotta a mile away. The remains are barely recognizable as a ship but the metal is as valuable as ever to Mr Nicol, who is not sentimental about ships.

"It will be a big, capital intensive operation to get the metal up substantially and quickly," he says. But the oil industry contractors have booked or bought every suitable vessel. In the North Sea oil comes first and old warships at a distant second.

## Blaze kills boy trapped in bedroom

A boy aged five died after being trapped in his blazing bedroom yesterday in Lindley Street, Newthorpe, Nottinghamshire. His parents and neighbours made several attempts to get into the bedroom, but were beaten back by flames. The boy, Keith Jowett, was found brought out by firemen who put a ladder up to the window. The house was gutted.

The blaze is thought to have started in the living room. The rest of the family, Mr Alan Jowett, aged 34, his wife, Sheila, aged 27, and son Andrew, aged seven, escaped in their night clothes.

Widow dies: Mrs May Marsh, aged 75, a widow, died in a fire in her bungalow at Mordiford, Herefordshire, yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Doorstep bomb injures man

A Birkenhead man was injured when a parcel bomb exploded at his home on Saturday night. A spokesman said that no motive was known.

Mr Orville Phillips, aged 29, a West Indian of Clowery Square, Ward 10, found the parcel on his doorstep. It exploded when he started to open it. He was taken to hospital with injuries to the face, abdomen and hands.

Trawler ban threat

Norwegian police say Norway may have to ban British trawlers from their ports at Christmas in future because of incidents caused by fishermen who have been drinking Pilsener beer. Fishermen who spent Christmas in a Norwegian prison were fined £50 after an alleged drunken spree in port.

## Communists blame owners in press inquiry evidence

By a Staff Reporter

The Communist Party yesterday published evidence that it is submitting to the Royal Commission on the Press. It accuses the owners of the British press to concentration of ownership in the hands of a small but extremely powerful group of men. Accordingly it argues that the royal commission is unnecessary, and that the Government could take immediate corrective measures.

The evidence dismisses the claim by some proprietors that they do not interfere in editorial matters. "They appoint the editors in the first place, and take good care to choose editors who are in general agreement with their own views of society."

The Communist Party asserts that freedom of the press is impossible until capitalism is broken and a socialist society established.

Meanwhile it prescribes legislation to prohibit further mergers or concentration of control

over newspapers, and says that newspaper companies should be forbidden to have holdings in television companies. Existing concentrations of control should be broken up, no firm being allowed to own more than one national daily or Sunday newspaper.

A newspaper subsidy, financed within the newspaper industry, should be introduced to help newspapers and periodicals that are in financial difficulties. Disadvantages of newspaper advertising should be spread more equitably; government-financed printing plants should be placed at the disposal of trade unions and other democratic organizations; and the newspaper industry should be nationalized.

Other prescriptions include the introduction of a right for the workers who produce newspapers "to oppose the unbalanced, distorted, and one-sided presentation of news and comment."

## Attempts to prolong IRA truce

Continued from page 1

Mr Seamus Loughran, a senior Sinn Féin representative in Belfast and a former intern, who took part in secret talks between IRA leaders and Protestant clergy, said yesterday that time was running out for the British Government. A substantial release of inmates from the Maze prison at Long Kesh might be accepted by the IRA, he said, but another Provisional statement said that the British need not go as far as that.

A soldier, who was severely wounded in a border shooting two weeks ago died in hospital yesterday. Rifleman Michael Gibson, aged 20, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, came from Deptford, London. Church pleads: Church congregations in Southampton heard pleas yesterday to help police in their hunt for six IRA members (our Southampton Correspondent reports).

The request for special services to be preached in churches of all denominations came from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Derek Worlock.

While the sermons were being read, more than a hundred detectives continued to search the city for the six. Two of them shot their way to freedom on Christmas Eve, seriously injuring a police constable.

After the discovery of an IRA cell in Southampton more than 20 people had been detained for questioning under the new anti-terror laws.

## Man saves wife from car fire

An injured man plucked his wife from her blazing car yesterday after a collision with another car near Sunderland airport. The driver of the second car was killed.

Mr George Pickings, aged 31, of Sea Road, Sunderland, made the rescue despite a leg fracture of the skull. He and his wife, aged 22, were taken to hospital. She had a fractured arm and broken legs.

## Drink 'aids darts aim'

Mr Alan Evans, aged 25, the Welsh winner of the £750 first prize in the Watneys British Open Darts Championship in London yesterday credited his success to seven pints of lager which he drank before the final contest (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr Evans is married with two children and comes from Ferndale, where he is about to open a sports shop. He defeated 500 local finalists from all over

## Mr Benn 'seems to be straying from our policy'

Dr Dickson Mabon, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow and chairman of the new moderate Manifesto group of the Labour Party, complained last night that Mr Wedgwood Benn, in criticizing Britain's EEC link, seemed to be straying from the Government's policy of trying to renegotiate the terms of membership.

"I am surprised that Mr Benn, who fought the election this year on two occasions on the same manifesto as other Labour candidates, is particularly being a Cabinet minister, not prepared to abide by those terms," he said. "It is very important that men in his position behave responsibly."

Dr Mabon said his group had members with different viewpoints on the EEC, but all were united in seeking by the party's policy on renegotiation.

Another Labour MP, Mr Eric Moonman (Basilston), said Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Wilson were working closely together on the renegotiated terms and in a few months those terms would be available to the British people.

"It is a great pity that a distinguished member of the Cabinet like Mr Benn is not prepared to await the renegotiation which I believe is being carefully and shrewdly handled," he said. Any attempt to prejudice the outcome of renegotiation would make it more difficult for those doing the job.

Hurdles on way, page 8

## Boy swept away while fishing

A boy aged 14 was presumed drowned yesterday after he was swept from rocks on the Gower Peninsula, West Glamorgan, during the night.

Richard Hayman, of Wilby Park, Bishopston, Gower, was fishing with three friends from a ledge at the foot of Worn's Head when a wave swept him away. His companions tried to reach him but he was quickly lost in the darkness and rough sea.

## The Queen 'entitled to make fullest use of grants'

From Our Correspondent

King's Lynn

The £1,000 grant to the Queen from public funds to convert two cottages into one on her Sandringham estate was defended yesterday by Councillor Frank Cork, chairman of West Norfolk District Council housing committee.

Earlier the Rev David Mason, Labour candidate for Norfolk, North, at the last election, called for stricter rules relating to rich people receiving public funds for property improvements.

Mr Cork, whose council made the grant, said: "I welcome the Queen applying for an improvement grant. For every cottage done up on the Sandringham estate or anywhere else it means providing one unit extra of housing accommodation which will save the council having to provide it in the future."

"The Queen is taking advantage of what the Government

is deliberately encouraging. That is the providing of old property to improve more and more housing units. Some 350 cottages are owned by the royal estate and like everyone else it is entitled to make the fullest use of grants to assist the housing programme in West Norfolk."

The Queen's grant, which was made by the officers of the council under delegated powers, may be discussed by the housing committee tonight. It was awarded for making two dilapidated cottages at Appleton, near Sandringham, "into one decent dwelling for a farm worker."

It is the first grant the council has made since the Queen since local government reorganization. But its predecessor, Freebridge, Lynn Rural District Council, gave her £1,000 to turn two Victorian cottages into one a year ago. An estate worker now occupies the house.

## JPs want short jail terms for hooligans

By a Staff Reporter

Defence of the rights of the courts to punish without intervention from Government, and an argument for keeping young adult offenders in custody even if only for a short while, are contained in a memorandum sent to the Home Office by the Magistrates' Association.

The Home Office has sought the association's views on a report by the Advisory Council on the Penal System setting out proposals for changes in the law on treatment of young adult offenders.

The association welcomes the proposed drawing together of the custodial and supervisory services and notes that the aim is to provide for more flexibility in treating offenders. It says the courts have always needed flexibility in sentencing powers and that any diminution of it has proved undesirable. Weight

must be given to the deterrent value of sentencing as well as to treatment and training, the association says, adding: "The argument is to ensure the right of the ordinary man, woman and child to live their lives unmolested by offenders, with confidence in law enforcement as a whole. A straight penalty is sometimes appropriate without prolonged treatment or training."

It may be equally successful in cutting their consideration for others which is the basis of law and order.

Pointing to powers the executive has to reduce sentences, the association says: "While these alterations to court sentences suit the executive, they suit society, too. The credibility of the courts, whose words are made to mean less and less what they say. . . . Sentencing is a judicial function which should be exercised in court in public and be subject to judicial appeal procedures."

So the association finds

## Flu wave unlikely to be severe expert says

By Diana Geddes

Although influenza is expected to increase this winter, medical experts say it is unlikely to be severe.

Britain escapes an influenza epidemic only one year in seven, Dr Geoffrey Schild, director of the World Influenza Centre, London, said yesterday. But it usually affects no more than 3 to 5 per cent of the population.

Injections containing a vaccine against the Hongkong strain would be effective this year. He advised all those in high risk groups or those who were responsible for essential public services to be vaccinated. The Department of Health and Social Security reported 19 deaths from influenza in the week ended December 19, but said that was about the level expected for the time of year.

The virus has reached epidemic proportions in Europe. In Budapest it is estimated to have stricken 30,000.

Diary, page 6

## For yachtsmen, 1975 begins today.

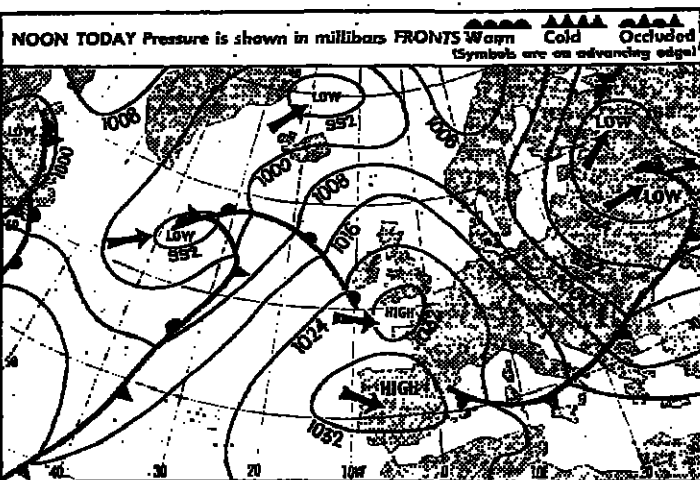


The new season is only just over the horizon, and Yachting World's Boat Show Number tells you exactly what's coming up. Here, in a brilliantly illustrated preview, are the major exhibits that will be on show at Earls Court from 1 January, highlighting the exciting and significant trends that add up to the 1975 season. In the same issue, Eric Hiscock relives the big moments of his recent Neo Hebrides-New Zealand cruise, and there's an intriguing new-type design competition.

**Yachting World**

Out now 40p

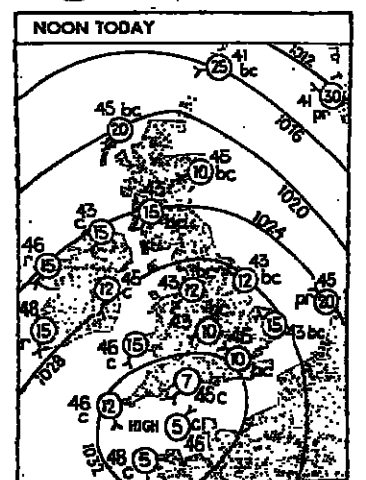
## Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Forecast for 6 am to midnight:	
Sun rises: 8.7 am	Sun sets: 4.0 pm	London, East Anglia, E. SE.	Central S. Central N. England, Midlands: Mostly dry, sunny spells with W. moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F); 8.22 pm, 13.7m (45.1ft).
Moon sets: 8.44 am	Moon rises: 6.10 pm	Channel Islands, SW England, S. Wales: Mostly dry, sunny intervals, becoming cloudy; some drizzle; wind backing SW, moderate; fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).	N. Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mostly dry, sunny intervals, cloudy later; rain; wind W. backing SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).
Lighting up: 4.30 pm to 7.37 am.		NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, E. Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, sunny spells, rain later; wind W. backing SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 8°C (46°F).	

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MONDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

Altitude	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Cloud	Pressure
London	12.0	11.0	75	100	1013.0
Birmingham	11.0	10.0	75	100	1013.0
Manchester	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Cardiff	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Edinburgh	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Glasgow	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Newcastle	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Sheffield	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Sunderland	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Wolverhampton	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
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Sheffield	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Sunderland	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Wolverhampton	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
Wrexham	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0
York	10.0	9.0	75	100	1013.0



WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

# Mr Callaghan leaving for Africa today to hear leaders' views on Rhodesia conference

By David Sparrow  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, leaves London by special aircraft at noon today on an African tour that seems certain to be dominated by the Rhodesia question. He opens his talks with President Kaunda of Zambia tomorrow, and will visit Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and finally Nigeria before returning home on January 11.

Whether Mr Callaghan will have talks with Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, or Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister of South Africa, is still an open question. He has made it clear that, if he wants to see him, he will be willing to meet him.

The fact that he is spending New Year's Day at the Victoria Falls is an obvious opportunity according to official sources in London, to discuss with the heads of government of the six African countries on his tour.

Although Mr Callaghan sees his visit as a kind of general goodwill tour which is proper for a Foreign Secretary to make, and he does have a particular interest in Africa—there is no doubt that Rhodesia will be the

burning issue of his talks with African leaders.

So far Mr Callaghan has displayed characteristic caution in approaching the Rhodesia question. He has watched the Africans make the running in the belief that, while Britain has a moral responsibility, it is primarily an African problem and in the hope that recent developments will create the conditions for a solution. Now he wants to learn at first hand how they see the prospects of a constitutional conference.

Michael Knipe writes from Lusaka: Zambia's capital resembles an international conference centre for constitutional conferences this week. Independence plans are being sketched out here for both Rhodesia and Angola, two of the retarded children of Mother Africa's colonial era.

Mr Callaghan, who arrives tomorrow for discussions on the matter with President Kaunda of Zambia may also have talks with Rhodesia's African nationalist leaders. Meanwhile, under way here between Dr James Smith and Dr Agostinho Neto, leaders of the two of the three rival Angolan liberation movements.

Dr Savimbi said yesterday that the three had reached agreement to begin constitutional talks with the Portuguese on January 10. It will be the first time that all three more-

ments have met the Portuguese. The talks are expected to be held in Portugal.

Dr Savimbi, aged 39, who leads UNITA, has been the activist in bringing the three movements together, having signed non-aggression pacts with each of the other two rivals in the past few weeks. As yet, there has been no meeting between Dr Neto of MPLA and Mr Holden Roberto, the leader of the third movement, FNLA, but Dr Savimbi dismissed the idea that this might be a stumbling block.

The Africans are now preparing a common platform for their meeting with the Portuguese. All parties are anxious to establish an interim government and this is likely to involve all three groups. It seems probable that there will be a Council of Ministers, with three from each movement, and no Prime Minister while the Portuguese will provide a high commissioner.

Bulawayo, Rhodesia, Dec 29. —Dr Elliott Gabell, acting president of the African National Council, said yesterday that his organisation regrets the killing of four South African policemen by guerrillas in Rhodesia just before Christmas. It had not been easy, he said, to give all insurgents in the north-east news of the ceasefire. —Reuters

Leading article, page 9

# Bangladesh suspends constitutional rights

From Michael Hornsby  
Delhi, Dec 29

President Mohammadullah of Bangladesh declared a state of emergency over the weekend and suspended all fundamental rights conferred by the constitution, such as free speech and habeas corpus. The proclamation was countersigned by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Prime Minister.

Involving special powers provided for in the constitution, the President said he was satisfied that a grave emergency existed in which the security and economic life of Bangladesh were threatened by internal disturbance.

A Government press note accompanying the presidential proclamation, referred to a group of people who had been active in various subversive activities in alliance with others who failed to attain power by constitutional means.

The note went on: "Some collaborators of the Pakistan Army, notorious for their anti-national crimes, extremists and enemy agents, in the pay of foreign powers for subverting the state, are all engaged now in activities which are creating impossible conditions in the country for attaining normal political stability and orderly economic progress."

The words "extremists" and "enemy agents" are presumed to refer to underground revolutionary groups of Marxist orientation which carved out small areas of control during the harassment of the Pakistan Army in 1971 and after secession made the new Awami League Government the target of their terrorist activities.

In a separate ordinance, the President gave the Government power to prohibit the spreading of false reports and the printing or publishing of any newspaper, news sheet, book or other document containing matters prejudicial to public safety, maintenance of public order and essential services.

The authorities were further empowered by the President to arrest any person deemed likely to act in a manner prejudicial to national security or interest or to Bangladesh's relations with foreign powers.

This provision appears to be aimed at restraining the expression of anti-Indian and pro-Pakistan opinion, but it could also supply an umbrella for stern measures against black-marketeers and smugglers.

The proclamation of the emergency reinforces the extensive powers of arrest and preventive detention which Sheikh Mujib already enjoyed under a Special Powers Act passed earlier this year.

For a year or more Bangladesh has been steadily moving towards one-party rule, with a controlled press and incarceration of political opponents of the Government. This weekend's measures simply set a formal seal on the extinction of Sheikh Mujib's over-ambitious experiment in democracy.

The official claim that the long-expected proclamation of emergency was made necessary by a sudden, new upsurge of internal disturbance cannot be sustained seriously.

Law and order broke down very soon after independence three years ago and has never been restored. According to official estimates, some 3,000 members of the ruling Awami League have been assassinated in political and personal feuds, and there is little doubt that the security forces have also done their share of killing.

In view of the ineffectiveness of previous steps taken by the Government to restore law and order and combat corruption, there must be real doubt whether even the assumption of full-scale emergency powers can now arrest Bangladesh's slide into anarchy and bankruptcy. —Reuters

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Leading article, page 9

# Direct talks with Eritrea guerrillas proposed

Asmara, Dec 29. —Ethiopia's military leaders intend bringing peace to the troubled northern province of Eritrea by direct negotiation with leaders of the guerrilla movements fighting for the secession of the province, a member of the military Government said here today.

The announcement was made by Major Berhannu Bahel, a member of the ruling military council in Addis Ababa, at a meeting between senior Ethiopian Government officials and 345 community leaders from all parts of Eritrea, participants in the meeting said.

The meeting opened in Asmara, capital of Eritrea, yesterday after a week of tension in the wake of rebel hand grenade attacks on two bars, in which six people were killed. The predominantly Muslim nationalist Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) has been fighting the Ethiopian army ever since Eritrea—formerly a federal state with a large degree of autonomy—was made a province of Ethiopia in 1962. A second guerrilla group, the Marxist-oriented Popular Liberation Front (PLF), was formed a few years ago. —Reuters

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Deck fire: Two firemen were taken to hospital yesterday after fighting a fire in a warehouse containing a thousand tons of rayon and acrylic fibre at King George V Dock, London (photograph above). About a hundred and fifty firemen, many wearing breathing apparatus, and 30

engines were called to the fire early yesterday (a staff reporter writes). It took more than eight hours to get the fire under control and the warehouse was extensively damaged. A senior fire officer said it would take several days to ensure the fire was completely out.

One of the firemen suffered the effects of fumes from burning fibre. Several others were advised to see their doctors after complaining of skin irritation, chest pains and nausea. The senior officer said acrylic fibre gave off hydrogen cyanide when burnt.

# Whole population should take part in local financing, authorities say

By Christopher Werman  
Local Government Correspondent

The rating system is outworn and no longer acceptable to the public and should be replaced by a system based on effective resources, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities says of local government financing today.

In evidence to the Layfield committee of inquiry into local government finance, the association says that "any new system of finance should provide for the whole population from the age of 18 and all industrial and commercial resources to contribute to the cost of services provided by local government."

"This might be done by allowing to local authorities a finite proportion of the total of national taxation, thus providing them with a buoyant source of income."

The association, which represents the major contributions, says that extra help should be provided for areas of high need and burden, though grants from the Government.

Although hinting at some form of local tax, possibly income tax, as an alternative source of revenue to rates, the association does not give details. Its evidence to the Layfield committee, outlines the general position, and looks for causes for local government's perennial financial crisis.

It says that to carry out their programmes, local authorities have had to borrow very large sums "to pay for capital expenditure in a period in which interest costs have risen to unprecedented levels."

The outstanding debt of local government is now nearly £20,000m.

The association makes the case for a greater share of national taxation to be administered by local government. Services such as education, housing, planning and highways are provided for the whole of the community because the community needs and demands them.

But Parliament has ordered that of the total of national taxation, the greatest slice should be collected and administered nationally even though it is arguable that a greater proportion of public

pressures, a lack of balance in the respective taxation bases of central and local government, and a relatively heavy and growing burden on local government by reason of its need to borrow at high rates of interest from its capital investments and a relatively heavy burden on the main urban areas."

"These factors, plus the long-outdated rating system and a rate support grant which starts from the premise that resources of local authorities can be measured by average rateable values, have at a time of inflation resulted in an annual financial crisis for local government."

The association argues that there was a serious failure to deal with the long-term issues of local government finance in the reorganisation of local government last April.

"The process of adding new responsibilities both large and small and extending old ones without first establishing a modern and satisfactory base for finance leaves central government in no strong position to express surprise that the expenditure of local government is rising faster than that for the rest of the public sector."

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The outstanding debt of local government is now nearly £20,000m.

service, other than by the public utilities, is administered by local government than by national government."

Local government, arguing for a reasonable share of national revenues to assist in its finance, was only asking for a larger share of the funds provided by the inhabitants as a whole.

The association defends local government's record on staff increases, stating that the average annual increase of 4.9 per cent did not appear to be higher than the projected growth in services. One element in the growth of expenditure and staff had been the growth of specialization.

"The reality is that the tiered ranks of specialists in government departments are available to urge local government forward in pursuit of the ideal solutions to problems."

It says that the metropolitan areas, particularly London, are special cases. The costs of administering local government in London and the other great conurbations were relatively high, yet the distribution of the rate support grant up to 1975 had failed to do justice to those needs.

"Such matters as extra costs of rebuilding rundown urban areas, the high costs of social services in areas of deprivation, are not counteracted by the so-called 'wealth' in rateable values."

The Society of Education Officers, in evidence to the Layfield committee, rejects as self-defeating the idea of splitting off from local government some part of the education service, such as higher education or teachers' salaries. It argues for a buoyant source of tax revenue, payable to local authorities as their right.

Whether those sources are income tax, value-added tax, petrol tax or poll tax, they should be supplemented by a local property tax made more fair and elastic than now, and by a central government support grant.

# Ford decision soon on inquiry into CIA

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Dec 29

President Ford is thinking of appointing an independent commission to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency. It would be modelled on the Warren Commission (of which Mr Ford was a member) which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

The idea was suggested by Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, and Mr Ford will announce his decision this week.

Meanwhile, *The New York Times* makes some new revelations today in reporting allegations of illegal spying by the CIA on peace groups in New York from 1968 to 1973, and of the ten-day decision this week.

The magazine says that three congressmen and a senator were also investigated because they, like Justice Douglas, had visited the Dominican Republic in the summer of 1968 and had links with Cuban exiles. The senator, late Mr Edward Long of Missouri, had connections with foreign trading companies.

The *New York Times* de-

scribes in some detail an account given to it by a former CIA agent who reported on peace groups in New York in the early years of the Vietnam war. He said that it was a large-scale operation involving infiltration, telephone tapping, break-ins, a great variety of electronic gadgetry and "psychological profiles."

The former agent claimed that he had used at least 40 such profiles in his work. They had been prepared by a special unit of the CIA. He said that in 1971, at the behest of Mr Howard Hunt, head of the White House "plumbers", the special unit prepared two profiles of Mr Daniel Ellsberg, the man who had leaked the Pentagon papers. Mr Hunt then went on to burgle the office of Dr Ellsberg's psychiatrist with CIA assistance.

The latest revelations suggest that in 1972 the CIA was conducting a campaign of surveillance operations at home as it was abroad, and that even if Mr Nixon had not wished to conceal the fact that he was spying on the Democrats, he might still have wanted to stop the FBI from discovering that the CIA was spying on ten thousand Americans.

# More MPs urge resignation of Mr Stonehouse

Continued from page 1

Mr Harry Goulby, MP for Kirkcaldy and a former Labour Whip, said: "The deliberately deceitful actions of John Stonehouse are utterly reprehensible. They have brought discredit to politicians, the Labour Party and the House of Commons. His first action on being discovered in Australia should have been to send a telegram to the Prime Minister, resigning from Commons and the Privy Council."

Our Political Staff writes: Mr Stonehouse has in effect a fortnight to decide whether to resign his seat in Parliament by applying for the Chiltern Hundreds. If he has not done so by the time the Commons recesses on January 13, there will undoubtedly be moves to expel him.

Mr Mellish, the Government Chief Whip, yesterday urged Mr Stonehouse to make his intention to resign known as quickly as possible.

# Mafia suspected in series of 17 murder cases

From Our Correspondent  
Rome, Dec 29

Six murders during the past three weeks in the Palermo area, including the total of recent killings described to the Mafia to 17. All are unsolved.

This new phase of suspected Mafia activity has been ascribed to the ease with which accused men evade harsh sentences, and the failure of the authorities to tackle the social and economic issues, which are regarded as the prime cause of the Mafia's continued strength. Fears have been voiced in the press of a further increase in such crimes.

# Junta leaders in banishment told of charges

From Our Correspondent  
Athens, Dec 29

Mr George Papadopoulos, the former Greek dictator, and his four partners, who are banished to the island of Kea, were formally notified today that they are accused of high treason and revolt.

Appeal Judge George Volitis, who is investigating denunciations of the five exiles and 45 other junta members for seizing power in 1967, today flew to Kea by helicopter and interviewed separately each of the five junta leaders. He gave them until January 15 to prepare written statements.

# Nato small arms criticized for being too heavy

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

The current range of Nato rifles and small arms ammunition is criticized in the first edition of *Infantry Weapons, 1975*, which is published today.

It comes at a time when Britain, the United States, West Germany and Belgium are engaged in intensive research on a next generation rifle.

Major F. W. A. Hobart, the editor, who is an authority on small arms, points out in his foreword that national conceit and insularity after the Second World War meant that the only item of infantry equipment to be standardized throughout Nato was small arms ammunition. But even that was a controversial choice.

Events in the early 1950s, when the next generation of rifles was being adopted, should serve as a warning to all Nato countries, he writes. As a result of poor military judgment and political manoeuvring the armies of Nato have been equipped for the last 20 years with a rifle cartridge, the 7.62 millimetre, that is clearly too powerful for the task it is expected to fulfil, and which requires a rifle that is heavy to carry and uncomfortable to fire.

A graph published in the book illustrates that 96 per cent of all rifle engagements now take place within a range of 400 metres, 86 per cent within 300 metres, 70 per cent within 200 metres and 28 per cent within 100 metres. If these figures are accepted, then Nato's next rifle need be capable only of stopping the enemy at around a range of 400 metres.

This means that there is a general requirement to find a successor not only to the Nato

7.62 millimetre but also to the Americans' 5.56 millimetres round, which, despite its successful use in Vietnam, loses some of its efficiency at over 300 metres.

Research in Europe and the United States has ranged from relatively conventional solutions, like the American TRW low maintenance rifle, to engaged new kinds of ammunition, like the caseless round—a bullet which is coated with its own propellant.

A caseless round would mean a saving in weight and materials, but success has as yet eluded the researchers partly because of the fire risks entailed in not having the propellant safely tucked away inside the casing.

Major Hobart contends that infantry weapons have, ironically, grown more important since the installation of large numbers of atomic weapons in Europe. In future, he says, weapons should become more effective while costing no more and involving even less back-up support, he says.

But if the infantry is to do more than just fight a delaying action against an enemy, there is no option for Nato countries but to try to overcome manpower shortages by equipping their armies with superior weapons and techniques.

The new Russian general purpose machine gun and Brandt's Ratelbox—a portable 50 millimetre salvo firing rocket launcher—are among the new weapons covered in this new volume by *Jane's*. The book covers the world's weapon systems so that the infantry can now be said to range over all sea, land, air, and land-based weapon systems.

*Jane's Infantry Weapons, 1975* (Macdonald Jones, £19.50).

# New ideas yield overflowing cider crop

By West Country Correspondent

Breaking their boughs under the weight of apples. There were virtually no damaging frosts in May: the sunny weather of August put the fruit on the tree and the subsequent heavy rains caused them to swell to unusual sizes.

Under such conditions older orchards can produce fruit of surprisingly good quality. The neglect of the past is being remedied by the more progressive farmers, who now see in their older apple trees a worthwhile crop. The initiation of a programme of proper pruning, spraying and manuring can produce some quite spectacular results.

Some of the old favourites, such as Yarlington Mill and Kingston Black, are yielding bushels of plump fruit that surprises those who have been used to gathering meagre crops of stunted apples from gnarled and lichen-lung trees.

Dessert and culinary apples are also useful in the making of sparkling cider for much depends on the skilful blending of the juices of selected varieties.

Some far-sighted cider-makers still go on in the West Country. At a recent demonstration of old-time farm crafts and implements near Yeovil an old wooden cider press of traditional type squeezed the juice out of fallen apples and delivered it into a bucket. The juice was then strained through a cloth and bottled. Bottled cider, however, is becoming increasingly popular. Sales have increased tenfold in the past decade, and the demand still grows.

# Agriculture

By West Country Correspondent

It took to purchase the crop for a guaranteed minimum price at present £20 a ton, for 25 years.

Cider companies select preferred varieties from some 3,000 types of cider apple, and the selection is made to ensure a long harvesting period from early varieties like Tremlett Blight to the mid-season series with picturesque names like Brown Snout, Fillbasket and Somerset Redstreak. The season is completed by late-fruiting varieties like Porters Perfection.

Most of those selected are bittersweet. Low in acid and high in tannin, they are best for cider-making. The extended harvesting period allows the factory to keep in full operation for the longest possible period. Some varieties, notably Porters Perfection, will remain in the orchards without damage until the end of December in a normal year. Late blossoming gives the flowers a better chance of escaping May frosts.

The present price for apples from the new bush plantations is £12 a ton, for apples of recognized quality from old orchards, £15 a ton, and for apples such as Morgan Sweet, £24 a ton. This year everything has favoured the apple crop, and the cider orchards of the West are

breaking their boughs under the weight of apples.

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# 400 winner

Weekly £20,000 Premium 25 Bond prize, announced on 29 Dec, was won by number 665318. The winner lives in The 25 £1,000 winners are:

# 25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, December 30, 1949  
From Our Labour Correspondent  
The stream of productivity teams from various sections of British industry which has been flowing across the Atlantic this year to study American methods, under arrangements made by the American Council on Productivity, will be continued at an increased rate in the New Year.

Altogether 16 teams have gone to America this year. The first team in the New Year will be the Diesel locomotive industry and will sail on January 4. It will be followed two days later by a team from the rigid-box and cartons industry and five days afterwards by a team from the general iron founding industry. Eight more will follow in rapid succession, including teams from leather-printing, meat processing and packing, hosiery manufacturing, and chemical manufacturing.

# Butter Token Scheme ends on 31 December.

The Butter Token Scheme will end on 31 December 1974.

Tokens dated January 1975 and later, which have been issued to some people receiving a supplementary pension or allowance, will not be valid for use and should be destroyed.

Tokens dated December may be used until 31 January 1975. They continue to be worth 6p each until then.

Retailers should surrender all butter tokens for reimbursement by 31 March 1975, to the Token Surrender Unit, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool FY6 8NW.



## OVERSEAS



Six of the men charged with looting in Darwin are escorted by the police to court.

## Call to reduce Darwin population to 10,000

From Our Correspondent  
Melbourne, Dec 29

Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, returning to Sydney after spending a day inspecting Darwin, said that the Government would spare no effort to rebuild the devastated city.

He has called an emergency Cabinet meeting for tomorrow to discuss plans for the rehabilitation of the city, struck by a cyclone on Christmas Day, and of its residents. On Tuesday he will resume his European tour.

In a broadcast from Darwin, he recalled the destruction caused by Japanese air raids during the Second World War. Arriving in Darwin yesterday had reminded him of his first visit to the city just after the Japanese attack, he said.

"The people of Darwin are no better off now than they were after the bombing. I want to assure you that the Australian Government will spare no effort to rebuild this city, to restore it as a proper place to live and to work." He pledged help for all those who had been "stricken" by the disaster.

Mr Whitlam went on: "It has been extraordinarily fortunate that the Natural Disaster Organisation is now in operation. It was established only nine weeks ago. Darwin is the first place where the organization has come into operation. Darwin's population must be reduced urgently from 45,000 to 10,000. That would be the maximum population

which the city can at present house. It will not be long before sufficient power is available to restore water and sewerage systems. Health hazards will then have been overcome."

Major-General A. B. Stratton, the head of the Natural Disaster Organisation, urged the people of Darwin in a broadcast: "Trust me, stay with me, do not listen to rumours about disease, and the crisis will be over in a few days."

He said that water supplies had been reconnected to most main city blocks and electric power was gradually being restored. Because of the sweltering heat many unidentified corpses had to be buried. Two more bodies have been found—those of two sailors washed up in the harbour—increasing the official death toll to 47.

A further 6,800 victims of the cyclone were flown out yesterday and 7,000 today. By tonight 17,500 had been evacuated. Dozens of commercial and military aircraft joined in a shuttle service.

The police in Darwin have warned looters that they will be shot dead. More armed police have arrived in Darwin and are patrolling the streets.

Fifteen people were brought before a Darwin court on looting charges. Two Aborigines were sentenced to 18 months' jail for looting. Several other men were said to have been arrested in a house stacked

with new goods. They all pleaded not guilty and the hearing was adjourned.

Darwin, Dec 29.—A sign planted in front of a pile of mangled wreckage that once had been a house read: "Heartbreak Hotel—no vacancies."

General Stratton came close to tears as he tried to console the victims. His first stop was the shell of a house less than a mile from the badly damaged airport. Mr Sam Abu-Asi, a Syrian, who migrated to Australia 17 years ago, stood speechless beside what had been his home. Only one wall remained. His wife squatted in the remains of her kitchen.

Holding his four-year-old son, Rami, Mr Abu-Asi said: "I came here so long ago, I work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, to build a house and life for my family, now it is gone."

Torrential rain fell for most of last night and women and children huddled for shelter in the shattered remains of the airport departure lounge waiting for flights.

Church services for all denominations were held today. In St Mary's Roman Catholic cathedral a structure in reinforced concrete was being pushed through the wreckage of the cyclone. Mr John O'Loughlin said: "It is a miracle that we are still alive."

People attended the church services wearing their Sunday suits to put on a show of normality.

Mr Lennox Walker, a long-range weather forecaster, gave a warning of five more cyclones.

He said that three cyclones would hit the central coast of Queensland on February 18, March 2 and April 7. Two other cyclones would strike Western Australia, near Windham, about 280 miles from Darwin, between January and March.—Reuter.

A group of 43 weary, bedraggled Britons were flown into London yesterday after losing their possessions in the devastation of Darwin.

They were employees of the Foreign Office at the government relay station in Darwin, accompanied by their wives and children.

The 43 were flown out of the area by the RAF and then travelled from Singapore on board a British Airways VC10. They were met by Foreign Office staff. A special room was set aside for those who had lost their passports or had no money.

Mrs Vivian Buffery, aged 28, from Luton, said of the disaster: "We just grabbed the children and ran to a neighbour's hut. As we were doing so all sorts of things were flying through the air. Washing machines, fridges and raxos were flying over the place." They hid in a shed, praying.

She told her two children Jean and Louise that "Father Christmas had arrived and had landed on the roof." They seemed to accept it.

## In brief

## Tearful eulogy to Jack Benny

Los Angeles, Dec 29.—Leading figures in the entertainment world today attended the funeral of Jack Benny, the comedian. One of his closest friends, George Burns, tried to give a eulogy but broke down sobbing. Bob Hope took over as Mr Burns was led away to his seat.

## Troops tackle oil

Tokyo, Dec 29.—The Defence Agency today called in 700 troops to clean up the shore round Japan's Seto inland sea where a giant oil slick has cost the fishing industry nearly 64,000 yen (191m).

## Israel quintuplets

Jerusalem, Dec 29.—Mrs Tova Medina, aged 31, who underwent hormone treatment after being childless for seven years today gave birth to quintuplets. They are all in comparatively good health in incubators.

## 24 die in air trip

Guatemala City, Dec 29.—A private commercial Lockheed aircraft, carrying 21 American tourists and a crew of three burst into flames on taking off from the Mayan ruins of Tikal in northern Guatemala, killing everyone on board.

## 5,000ft death plunge

Mudgee, Australia, Dec 29.—Two skydivers plunged more than 5,000ft to their deaths today when their parachutes became tangled in a linked hands leap from a light aircraft.—Reuter.

## Volcano descent halted

Scott Base, Antarctica, Dec 29.—A French, American and New Zealand effort to descend into the active volcanic crater, Mount Erebus, in Antarctica has been abandoned after it started to display potentially dangerous signs of activity.—Reuter.

## Admirable Dr Kissinger

Washington, Dec 29.—For the second year in succession, Dr Henry Kissinger emerges as the man Americans most admire in a Gallup opinion poll published by the Washington Post. Former President Nixon gained seventh place.

## Heath Caribbean tour

Mr Edward Heath will have talks with Mr Lynden Pindling, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, and Mr Michael Manley, the Premier of Jamaica, during a visit to the West Indies for which he leaves today.

## US aviation body blamed over Paris airbus crash

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

The DC10 Airbus was given a certificate of airworthiness by the United States Federal Aviation Administration without sufficiently stringent safety tests, according to a report made public in Washington over the weekend.

A DC10 owned by Turkish Airlines crashed after taking off from Paris for London last March killing all 346 on board, including 175 Britons—the world's worst air disaster.

A large part of the blame for that crash is now placed with the FAA by the report, which was drawn up internally in April by officials of the administration itself, but which remained secret until this weekend. It was then released attached to a second report on the DC10 by a House of Representatives special investigations sub-committee.

The House committee alleged that the FAA put thousands of lives at risk needlessly and

unjustifiably by failing to deal properly for almost two years with a danger which has been shown up in the DC10 design.

This was a reference to the Paris disaster blew out under the pressure inside the aircraft hull. The force of the pressure released pushed the cabin floor down and this severed controls under the floor.

In July, 1972, the cargo door of an American Airlines DC10 blew out over Windsor, Ontario, but on that occasion the crew were able to bring the Airbus down safely.

The Congress investigators were unable to obtain a satisfactory answer as to why the door of the DC10 in the Paris crash had not been modified.

About 160 DC10s are now in service with airlines, including one British operator, the independent Laker Airways, and the FAA report comments that with the modifications which have been made, there is no doubt that the cargo door is safe.

## A town learns to live with its mice

Kalgoorlie, Dec 29.—Mice, driven from the plains of Western Australia, by huge bushfires, have overrun the gold-fields town of Kalgoorlie.

Police Constable Stewart Ainsworth said today that there was panic when the mice first began moving into town about three months ago.

Constable Ainsworth added: "I think we are fighting a losing battle. Residents are finding mice in their beds and even in their baths. I heard about one bloke who found a mouse in his beer. He just flicked it out and kept on drinking."—Reuter.

## Soviet dissident to face trial in Lithuania

Moscow, Dec 29.—The Soviet authorities have flown Dr Sergei Kovalev, a dissident biologist, to Lithuania where he will apparently face trial on charges of disseminating unofficial publications, Academician Andrei Sakharov said today. Dr Kovalev was arrested on Friday in connection with investigations into an underground Lithuanian journal on Roman Catholic Church affairs.

Meanwhile, Professor Alexander Voronel, a Soviet physicist, arrived in Israel today after a two-year struggle to emigrate from Russia.—Reuter.

## Miss Morosi will join staff of Dr Cairns

From Our Correspondent  
Melbourne, Dec 29

Dr Jim Cairns, the acting Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer of Australia, announced today that Miss Juni Morosi would rejoin his staff as a private secretary. Dr Cairns said she would begin her duties as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made.

Miss Morosi was first appointed to Dr Cairns's staff on December 2—but withdrew after a storm in Parliament and controversy in the press. Dr Cairns said today that allegations and innuendoes in the newspapers had made it impossible for her to continue with her work in his office, but she had now reconsidered her decision and wished to accept the post. He was satisfied she was qualified for a position as private secretary, and she would work in public relations with special reference to communications with industry, banking and consumers.

Earlier it had been reported that Miss Morosi had been negotiating to join a commercial television station as a television reporter. This month a report was submitted by the New South Wales Corporate Affairs Commission to Sir Robert Askin, then Premier of that state, which said that investigations with which Miss Morosi had been associated had shown that there were no grounds for any charges of impropriety against her.

## Guarantees hold up peace talks in Cyprus

From Our Correspondent  
Nicosia, Dec 29

The Greek and Turkish Cypriot representatives had another meeting over the weekend, but they again failed to agree on a mutually acceptable basis for resuming their peace talks.

An official announcement after the meeting said Mr Glafkos Clerides, president of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, and Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, continued to exchange views on a basis for beginning talks on the substance of the problem.

After their last meeting on December 19 the two Cypriot leaders announced that they had reached agreement on "all points but one". According to informed sources, the remaining obstacle is over the form of international guarantees for the constitutional order likely to emerge from their deliberations.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Makarios was reported to be greatly concerned over the continuing rift within the Cyprus church. This became apparent after the collapse of an attempt by Archbishop Seraphim, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Primate of Greece, to reconcile Archbishop Makarios and three unfringed rebel bishops of the Cyprus church.

Our Athens Correspondent writes: A Greek military manoeuvre was staged unexpectedly in the Aegean Sea yesterday to test Greek defences in case of attack—presumably by Turkey. It is understood that the alert involved the Greek islands in the eastern Aegean, which have been fortified against possible Turkish attack.

## Al Fatah chief still intent on killing King Husain

From Paul Martin  
Beirut, Dec 29

Arab hopes for a reconciliation between King Husain and the Palestinian guerrillas have been dealt a serious blow on the threshold of the proposed combatants' talks in Cairo. The setback came in the form of a renewed assertion by Mr Salah Khalaf, the second in command of Al Fatah, that his group still intended to kill the King and overthrow his regime.

Jordan has demanded as its price for burying the hatchet with the guerrillas an end to the four-year-old campaign waged against it. Earlier the guerrillas appeared to have taken a step in this direction by deciding at their central council meeting to end the Palestinian propaganda war against the Hashemite kingdom.

Mr Khalaf, whose nom de guerre is Abu Iyad, personally led an unsuccessful attempt on the King's life while he was attending the Arab summit meeting in Rabat. The plot was foiled by Moroccan security forces after a tip-off from the Spanish police.

Al Fatah is the biggest of the Palestinian groups and is headed by Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. However, Mr Khalaf has a considerable following, particularly among the terror-oriented members of Al Fatah. The planning of the Black September terrorist network has been attributed to him.

"If anyone wants to give Husain a chance," Mr Khalaf said in an interview with the Quade press group, "then let them do it. So far as I am concerned, the matter is settled and the question is clearcut. I am not giving the King a chance."

Jordan had earlier criticized a statement by Mr Khalaf made at a press conference in Beirut in which he claimed responsibility for the Rabat operation. According to Jordanian sources, this latest outburst against the King and his regime will increase the obstacles in the way of a normalization of relations between Jordan and the PLO.

## Cairo ministers in Russia

Moscow, Dec 29.—Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, today met Dr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-General Muhammad al-Gamassi, the War Minister.

The discussions, which Western diplomats say may reflect a crucial stage in Soviet-Egyptian relations, took place in a "friendly atmosphere", according to Tass.

The two ministers arrived here yesterday in response to an "urgent" invitation from Mr Brezhnev, according to political sources quoted in Cairo. Both those sources and Western diplomats here said the visit is connected with Mr Brezhnev's announced visit to Cairo next month.

There has been some diplomatic speculation, unconfirmed by official sources, that Russia has threatened to postpone or cancel that visit unless a substantial degree of agreement is reached beforehand mainly on Middle East peace moves and Soviet weapons shipments.—UPI.

## Former Prime Minister expelled by Thailand

From Our Correspondent  
Bangkok, Dec 29

Tension in Bangkok has declined considerably with the expulsion of the former Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, who left on a special flight for Singapore today.

The expulsion followed student demonstrations at Thammasat University protesting at the former military leader's return.

An emergency Cabinet meeting on Friday ordered Field Marshal Thanom's detention to face possible charges concerning his actions during the bloody street demonstrations which ultimately brought down his military Government in

October last year. However, it became clear that his presence could cause serious unrest, especially with a general election due in less than a month. General Kris Sivara, the army commander-in-chief, cut short a tour of South-East Asia and returned to Bangkok from Manila late last night.

General Kris said at an airport press conference that he thought Field Marshal Thanom should be expelled quickly and soon afterwards a meeting of senior Cabinet officials concurred.

The student movement itself was divided about what should be done. Singapore, Dec 29.—Field Marshal Thanom arrived here from Bangkok, and was driven to the Thai Embassy.—Agence France-Press.

## Rocket attack on South Vietnam city

Saigon, Dec 29.—Communist forces yesterday launched artillery and rocket attacks on the city of Tay Ninh, 50 miles north-west of Saigon, and on military base camps near the city.

Reporting the attacks, the South Vietnamese command said the rockets and shells caused no casualties, but four Government soldiers were killed in fighting round a communications centre on Ba Den mountain.

During the past three weeks five district towns have been captured by the communists. Three of them were in Phuoc Long province, north of Saigon. The Government command said 80 mortar bombs last night hit a number of positions near the province's isolated capital, Phuoc Binh.—Reuter.

Our Gracie:  
A little frail but still in good voice

Gracie Fields today: "I can still sing. I still have the voice."

"Our Gracie", says the young man at the reception desk, not flinching for an instant from using the legendary cliché, "is in room 733." On the seventh floor two maids, with the mixture of reverence and she's-a-good-sort affection that must have accompanied her all her life, are discussing when to do "her" room. Two middle-aged ladies, from the North, and a young photographer are coming out of the Maxwell suite at the Westbury Hotel, where Gracie Fields, 77 in the New Year, is spending her annual week in London.

She is smaller than I expect her to be, rather well dressed in dark red trousers and matching jacket, with glasses, white hair, red lips, and gold slippers. She has aged in the tradition of the great indomitable English ladies, with a pug nose and soft white hair. She is a little frail, but her skin is extraordinarily unlined, a firm and friendly matron, who suddenly, astonishingly, does a quick dance and bursts into song. The famous voice is just the same, "something between a riddling song and a Bach cantata" as a critic once some-what unkindly but very aptly called it.

"I can still sing. I still have the voice", she says. "That hasn't gone." Gracie Fields tried to retire when she was 47, saying that she was too old to "sing her legs around". She tried again at 67, and began giving goodbye concerts in America, Canada, and all over England. Now, 10 years later, her concert days are really over, though clubs and theatres still make offers. "I can't make any more appearances", she says with a real note of regret. "I might get a cold and then I wouldn't be able to appear. And I've seen so many people making comebacks when it's unfair to ask the audience for the money. I want them to remember me in full bloom."

Full bloom was the 1930s when the Lancashire girl from Rochdale, the girl who had worked in the mines, and made good in the south, without losing her uncompromisingly no-nonsense manner, and Lancashire vowels, was said to be the richest working woman in the world, earning more than £150,000 a year from films, shows and records.

Sally in our alley, made in 1931, took more money than any British picture of its vintage and gave her the song "Sally" which she has sung ever since. She started an orphanage and toured the country from end to end, surrounded by her family, songwriters, managers and accompanists. In August, 1934, 110,000 people, the equivalent of Blackpool's entire resident population, heard Gracie Fields sing at their Grand Theatre.

She sang two kinds of songs, comical character ditties and the sentimental, gushing tunes like "Sing as we go".

"The jokes just happened. To start with I thought it was terrible when people laughed at me. It was all right when I was mimicking other people, because then I could pretend that they were laughing at them. But then one day I was asked to ad lib in a sketch and I realized what fun it was. If it's laughter they want, then you can just keep adding to the jokes." But she is wary of mimics, and the people who mimic her and her songs.

"When you see stars doing the same things again and again, the same songs and the same mannerisms, it's easy to copy. But you can't go on doing it. You've got to find your own character. Just as I did watching people like Charlie Chaplin and George Formby."

During the war she took her songs and her sketches touring the troops and sang "She's going to string old Hitler / On the very highest bough / Of the biggest aspidochelone" and came back to the CBE, the Freedom of Rochdale, and an honorary degree of Master of Arts from Manchester University. A passing unpleasantness over her departure to America with her new "enemy alien" Italian husband, Monty Banks (when she was accused of taking a lot of money and jewelry out of the country) did not mar her popularity for long.

After the war she turned from music hall to concert. "I sang my songs, and told nice clean stories with a laugh at the end."

She topped the bill at the London Palladium, earned a record of £6,500 for eight days at the Empress Hall in Earls Court, and learnt her songs on the train between London and Capri, her real home since just before the war. "I kept nearly sailing the house there, only I realized that those journeys were the only time I could learn new songs. On tour here it was impossible, people, shows, never a moment off. So two days there and two days back and a rest in between and I learnt a whole new set of songs for the Palladium."

During those years she never read a press cutting about herself. "My mother looked at them all. They affected me somehow. Once I did a show and sang 'Little old lady'. Everyone loved it. But then I read a piece a critic wrote about it being a ridiculous song for a royal command performance. So I started picking at it, and thought yes, it is rubbish. So next time I sang it, I sent it up. The audience was furious. From then on, what the audience likes, I'll sing."

Gracie Fields did one straight play, when she was asked by Sir Gerald du Maurier to be his leading lady in *S.O.S.* She took the part of a girl who commits suicide in a wayside inn. "Everyone was scared stiff that it would make me leave music hall. But I don't want to go to the theatre every night and say the same words. When I do a concert I change all the songs around to keep fresh, so it's not like putting a penny in the slot, and jabber, jabber, jabber. At one time I could remember 360 different songs, and I would just start singing whatever I thought of next."

So she turned down straight parts, though she did consider at one point doing a one-woman play a producer sent her. "It was about this woman's life. I read it. Then I put it on tape. Then I did it as an Irish woman." She puts on a strong Irish voice. "Then I did it as a Scotswoman." She switches her accent. "Then I did it as myself." She reverts to the characteristic mixture of North Country, standard English and American overtones. "Then I thought I can't do this unless I can pick it up and give it a bit of a giggle. There's a smile in the drabest of lines and I want to find it in my lines."

There has always been talk

of opera contracts, but "I'm just a bathroom opera singer," she says. "I think I've had a lot more fun. I just fool about. All that practising would have been a terrible chore. I never trained so I could never have attacked it professionally, only as part of a comic act, when I would be a charwoman, scrubbing the floor and singing something out of Verdi or Puccini." She does a few bars from *Madame Butterfly*.

"But a lot of people think you're most moving when you sing opera," says Boris Alperovici. Gracie Fields's third husband, who patters about the stirring room of the Maxwell suite, a smiling man who looks like a contented cat.

Mr Alperovici is one of the reasons why they live in Capri, since he runs the restaurant and swimming pool she had always planned to have, and insisted, when they married in 1952, on a quiet time. It cannot be all that quiet however, since Gracie Fields is recognized queen of Capri, and tour operators make special journeys to point out her house.

And though the days when people mobbed her in the streets are over, it is not all that quiet anywhere. She was called up on the stage at the Danny La Rue show in London last week, and given a standing ovation. She has also just made a record "Sing along with Gracie." It's the best I've ever made. It has an impact just like it used to at the old Palladium. She is now planning two more. "I'm trying to work out my life story on two records taking the songs that meant something to me, and talking in between."

And she adds, somewhat wistfully, that she would not at all mind doing a television film of Paul Gallico's *Mrs Harris goes to Paris*. Nor has the "grande dame of the English pop song" as Colin MacInnes has called her, the warm-hearted good sort who received 100,000 letters when she was ill in hospital in 1933, quite given up her public life. "I still get a lot of letters, but I'm just not going to answer them all any more. Now it will just have to be Christmas cards." I asked her how many she had sent. "Well, I did well over 1,500 myself," she says. "And I think that's going to be my lot."

Caroline Moorehead

Gracie in her heyday: "The jokes just happened."

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Gracie in her heyday: "The jokes just happened."

Gracie in her heyday: "The jokes just happened."



فلماذا من الأصل

## MONDAY BOO

large score to the flutes and colos tend to get left

ally, he is helped by his assistant, Rosamund and looked after by Rita who was until a sister at the National Hospital. He acknowledges an enormous debt to her recovery to date. She says: "We know there is a limit to what we can of his heart at the So at all costs we want we his energy for com When he goes to the people think that he awful, but actually that to you now, he seems ugh, but afterwards he ery tired. He usually to write for about an the morning, and some- in the afternoon. mander of the time he

concluded: "There is s that is especially to me. I don't want to know that when to do this or that it's simply because I am capable of fulfilling all s. I would like to I would love to do the festival to help egen and Bill Servaes. , particularly in the programme-building, much as I want to manage to go to the or the recording of Venice, but even that excite me too much. so essential for me e, to decide whether what I really wanted, not really cope. So say 'No' to people. If they get out of If people get upset, it hurts me. Then What gets me rails again is work- n says, psychology seems important. is musically—and of the old Britten e back—only time

Benjamin Britten at home; a photograph taken a few days ago.

Photograph by Edward Morgan

gs as history

Paul Barker

On The Times special Change 1770- by Roy Palmer

ing down our street be in Brummagem, their as I did meet: Brummagem.

was first sung in Theatre Royal, Bir- at when it is sung apparently time- oratory. The motor carried on, in the upheavals that the railways began. how would so Social change?

n The Times is a songs that did. It is a hymn of provin- of course. Birmin- century. Birmin- symbol of it. The ly recurs; and not time, because the Roy Palmer,

other boom towns coal and iron and are here, too: ham, Liverpool. London comes in, London on the the tracks, where this plain, at no they adulterate their of this hymn self-improvement. The 38 songs thus chosen from the book, Mr Arthur tion, the picture n. The song is a that most sums was a railwayman indicator on the Lein- to Nottingham. nd, Penrith, Huddersfield, Halli- On the plat- a news vendor's October, 1870: TONY BILL—DE- COMMONS. This Education Act. e can teach out (untary) Sunday it into the (even-

ually compulsory) hands of the local school boards. The needs of that hard age produced changes which were to soften it: "a cast-iron age", one song calls it, though with humour. not bitterness.

The songs, like the photographs are often Anon. Those that are not were written by the kind of men who might also listen to them. "Freeth was of humble origin", Palmer says, talking about the few known authors. "Mather worked in the cutlery trade. Armstrong was a miner, Laycock a power-loom weaver." Their songs were sometimes sentimental, usually humorous, occasionally political; they have a sort of directness; but also a feeling of unused power.

This may be a fault in one's own: perception, of course. Despite Mr Palmer's helpful footnotes, one is still reading these songs through a faint bias of time. The photographs, by contrast, speak clear.

The moral parallel to the cast-iron technology was the New Poor Law, in a song called "The People's Comic Alphabet":

W. stands for workhouse, at the end of a bad life. In these English bastilles they treat man and wife.

But this has not the immediacy of the photographs of rows of elderly men, like battery hens, eating their resentment dinner in the Marylebone Workhouse. The song softens its point, in a very English way, by making it in a mock-comic context. The photograph cannot soften what it records at all.

Mr Palmer has a section specifically on politics. This is right—especially in a book so clearly and self-avowedly inspired by E. P. Thompson's work. But I strongly suspect it, except at moments of heightened tension, the songs of Saturday night and Monday morning went down better with the audiences. It may be evidence for this that even a song at the high point of Charisma gives itself the bouncy tune of "The Campbells are Coming". And what it promises as the

results of an accepted Charter is: (I think without much irony):

A loaf for a plump, a pig for a crown. And gunpowder tea at five farthings a pound: Instead of red herrings we'll live on fat geese. And get lots of young women at twopence apiece.

Some of the songs about strikes and wages are bitter, but many have an almost excessive rationality:

If th' work folk would be reasonable and th' masters be but just. The turnouts [ie. strikes] will turn in, and prosper all things must.

Perhaps this reasonableness is why so much evidence remains, among English working class life, of what is sung about here. Even now, many of those workhouses stand (which the Eastlie itself does not), and they may still be separating man and wife; but they're now part of the NHS and are called geriatric wards.

It is a strangely mixed life that is portrayed in these songs, just as English working life, even now, is a curious mixture of "little luxuries" and shabbiness. One song complains about "the tea-drinking wives"; another recounts "the lazes" resolutions that retained a peasantry retained rural-in-year-out peasant dress). But these are husbands' standard themes; and in fact, in both photographs and text, it is the changed position of women that struck me most.

The men are—many of them—trapped; they dig coal or canals, or try to make the best of unemployment. But they have, sometimes, a delonance that the women, once past first youth, have to forgo. The only "free women" in these pages are travelling actresses. But among the men there are tramps, mufin men, sheep dipmers, cobblers.

These lives, too, were hard. But the very bend of the women's backs in the photographs, the hard muscles wringing out clothes, show how much the system rode on the shoulders of the women.

forgotten Miranda (Adrienne Brynne) who has not actually done anything yet, but all the other characters keep saying what a strange child she is. Is that surprising? And this is only part of Simon Raven's four-part adaptation.

Well, *Portrait of a Lady* was never like this, and neither was *Coronation Street*, but *An Unofficial Road*, with all its masses of plot and drama, has a touch of the "street" about it—and a very good thing too. So much television drama seems to consist of only two characters in a room with the viewer having nothing to watch but the scenery of their faces. I very much enjoyed this first episode on Thursday at 7.55 pm and see for themselves.

al Rose

oulds

much of a trend to be serializing the's *An Unofficial* time when the is to be search- its pockets a classics to tele- of the novels could be a very of artistic wood's novel- what it once film land it on a or a distorting d for a young lass: the BBC, of purse, has ere are the considered. was on Satur- and see Miss eake flesh.

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CHURCHILL

A personal appreciation, by Sir John Colville, of Sir Winston's work and character.

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HISTORY TODAY

















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## MR CALLAGHAN'S TASK IN AFRICA

Mr Callaghan arrives in Lusaka tomorrow on the first and presumably most important stage of his ten-day African tour. Planned before the meetings between white Rhodesian officials and black Rhodesian nationalist leaders in that capital, it now has taken on greater significance. It is no longer the goodwill and peace-making trip originally envisaged. Mr Callaghan will probably be asked to visit what Britain can do to assist to expedite and encourage a satisfactory outcome from the proposed constitutional conference between black and white leaders in Rhodesia, and second, what Britain will do to increase the squeeze on the Smith regime in the event of failure at the first try. To answer that the trip is merely to have general discussions will now hardly satisfy the African leaders. They will hope for something more positive.

Since the Pearce commission report, the British line has been that Britain can do no more until a settlement acceptable to all parties has been worked out in Rhodesia. The events (which of course flow from the Portuguese revolution last April) that appear to break the deadlock and bring compromises nearer have not altered this view. British ministers have argued that a constitutional conference made no sense until Mr Smith agreed to attend it, and now the official view seems to be that Mr Smith should chair it in Rhodesia, and London should be left out of the picture until the moment arrives to give legal force to any settlement that emerges. This attitude, which seems reasonable here, takes too little account of African resentment at Britain's conduct of the Rhodesian dispute so far. The

Africans now see that it was not British efforts, but those of the Frelimo guerrillas which have at last changed the scene. This may be unfair to Britain's difficulties in making sanctions work in the face of other nations' evasion of Security Council resolutions. The fact remains that they think Britain has fallen short. With Mr Callaghan to talk to now, they may very well bring up once more the list of additional measures that they think Britain could deploy to coerce the Rhodesians towards concessions—such as cutting them out of the Postal Union or cancelling British passports used by British residents in Rhodesia.

Mr Callaghan may be briefed to show that these or other measures are impracticable. But then, if the talks fail to come off or break up without agreement, it will again be somebody else who is asked to take the strain while Britain (apparently) does nothing: for then Frelimo will surely be asked to close all the Portuguese Jopholes, as well as allowing the guerrillas to operate from its territory—both at no little cost to Mozambique. It will be surprising if the Africans concede to Mr Callaghan that Britain has done enough.

Unfortunately the outlook for a settlement, which would immensely relieve Britain's overseas worries, is far from promising, despite the combined efforts of Mr Vorster and President Kaunda both of whom so urgently need a peaceful transition in Rhodesia to majority rule. South Africa needs it to avoid being sucked into a kind of southern African Vietnam, and Zambia needs it almost as badly to save its crumbling communications to the coast. The recent terrorist outrage in which South African

police were killed while parleying about the supposed ceasefire shows that the Zanu guerrillas and their backers accept no ceasefire yet. Mr Smith's precondition for a conference was a ceasefire, and he can now justify a refusal to proceed until he gets one—and can press for continued South African military help. If he does not say so, some of his party faithful will. To get the conference going while the raiding continues will therefore be difficult, though of course it must be attempted. The visit of Sir Roy Welensky to Lusaka may here do good: he, better than most, can give President Kaunda a convincing assessment of white Rhodesian attitudes at this juncture, and show what is needed to get the constitutional discussions moving.

It is still to everyone's advantage to have the conference, except the terrorists, who may or may not be out of the control of their nominal political leaders. Even presuming that Mr Smith and his colleagues have decided not to yield much on early majority rule, they need a record of reasoned concessions to retain South African official support. The process of debate, so long interdicted in Rhodesia, can itself loosen up rigid attitudes. The chances of success will obviously be increased if the atmosphere is right. It needs to be seen in Rhodesia that the African leaders are trying to restrain terrorism. The pressure on the Smith regime needs to continue—and it needs to extend its clemency to Mr Garfield Todd—however much it may fear that he would prove a useful ally of the African negotiators. Mr Callaghan may not have much to contribute to this combined operation, but he will not achieve a good impression if he arrives quite empty-handed.

## BANGLADESH BRACED FOR A GRIM FUTURE

The state of emergency proclaimed in Bangladesh on Saturday has seemed inevitable for some months past. Some might think that this country, born in emergency by Indian induction, has never lifted itself out of that condition in the three years of its existence. Now the doubt will be whether the call to order and the imposition of new discipline can any longer be effective when Sheikh Mujib's government has lost the confidence of the politically conscious population. For what the government must now do is not simply to put an end to the violence that attributes to its opponents, or to the hooligan elements whose possession of arms allows them to live by exactions, but to restrain the brutality and indiscipline of its own para-military forces. The 3,000 members of the Awami League who are said to have been killed have not all been innocent victims. Killing for political ends or for local advantage has been the struggle for independence and has continued since, with more violence accompanying smuggling or other illicit deals. No political faction can escape blame.

To deplore the state to which Bangladesh has been reduced is not to overlook the gross hand-

caps from which, as a country, it starts. In relation to productive capacity population pressure is worse than for any other nation of comparable size. There is no mineral wealth. The quota of natural disasters by flooding, drought and hurricanes regularly exceeds any of its neighbours. The greater part of its population is underfed, underemployed and undereducated. Such conditions called forth generous alms from a world sympathetic to Bengali suffering after 1971. By now the aid-givers have lost heart and the social workers, missionaries, technicians and distributors of aid within the country despair. The begging bowl held out so confidently three years ago hangs listlessly down. The £400 millions a year that the country needs even to keep alive will not be forthcoming.

Against all these disadvantages that have brought their share of suffering to Bangladesh the charge to be set against maladministration is nevertheless the heavier. The corruption goes from top to bottom. Very few of Sheikh Mujib's closest colleagues are not included in the constant allegations. And if Sheikh Mujib himself still retains some respect it must be admitted that his sentimental

rhetoric is no longer enough to win obedience from a divided country. On top of that his attachment to his colleagues is everywhere criticized, so that the Awami League far from being a party expressive of the national interest seems only one that leans on the leader and collects the pickings of power.

In what way may the state of emergency now turn the tide towards honesty and efficiency? The charges made in the proclamation against unspecified elements in the population might imply that the emergency is intended only to bolster the power of the Awami League and little else. A government of a more authoritarian character determined to impose discipline on the country might well be the harsh answer needed, but what confidence does the population have in those who would impose the discipline? Neither the Indians who "liberated" Bangladesh, nor the Russians who personalized Bangladesh as a fringe responsibility to their Indian interest, nor any other aid-giving or politically interested power can or would wish to influence the outcome. Somehow Bangladesh is going to have to find its own answer to its political problems.

## David Wood

## Awards for the politicians of the year

As the year closes it would be agreeable to look back on 1974 and be able to point with absolute certainty to the birth of one new idea in British politics, or even an old idea that had been given force and freshness by the genius of its expression. Any such search must fail. British politics remains stubbornly non-intellectual, an activity as practical as bookkeeping or bricklaying whenever it is not simply a series of reflex responses to external events. In spite of two general elections and three Budgets nothing uttered by a British politician in 1974 will deserve to live on into 1975 for its own sake, unless it is the beautiful paradox from Mr Willie Whitelaw, as Conservative Party chairman, when he accused Mr Harold Wilson of "stirring up complacency" during the October election campaign.

Those who mocked Mr Whitelaw for verbal ineptitude made too little allowance for the backstage energy Mr Wilson can bring to a policy of nasterly inactivity.

In default of ideas, then, how shall the year 1974 be remembered? The answer is: by the politicians who set their stamp upon it either by their abilities or their force of character. On that test the politician of the year, the winner of the Westminster Oscar, must be Mr Jim Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary.

At some point that even he might find hard to fix, perhaps as he passed his sixtieth birthday and discovered the spiritual rather than financial rewards of getting mud on his boots as he lorded it over the 57 acres of the lordly and barley farm, Mr Callaghan found fulfilment and made that subtle change from politician to statesman.

He found that when he stopped trying so hard everything came easily. He had been broken as Chancellor of the Exchequer by devaluation; he did not recover his confidence as Home Secretary; and his relationship with Mr Wilson was damaged by his opposition to "In Place of Strife".

But in March this year he went to the Foreign Office, his peace made with Mr Wilson, and month by month established a command over his department and over the Commons that nobody else today may equal. To a splendid presence at the despatch box, he adds an easy, relaxed style of narrative and debate that tells of total inner confidence.

It would be going too far to say that he has gained the world by surrendering it, but the secret seems to be that, after nearly 30 years in the House, Jim Callaghan has learnt the hard way that he values nobody's good opinion more than his own self respect.

Everybody's good opinion is therefore added unto him. It is a backhanded tribute, yet still a significant tribute, that when two or three Tories gather together and speculate about an impending national crisis that could break up the existing party system and bring a coalition government into being, Mr Callaghan is usually named as the one man round whom the coalition could form.

I believe they mistake their man: Mr Callaghan is too deeply steeped in his party's history, too much the party manager by inclination, to go the way of Ramsay MacDonald in 1931. But there is no doubt that he would be essential to any coalition in the immediate future. He towers over both front benches, at least for the time being.

I hope it will not seem perverse to name as runner-up for the Westminster Oscar, 1974, Mr Edward Heath, above all for the strength of character he has shown in defeat and in adversity.

Public life is made easy by success. The cheers bring surges of adrenalin that carry the victorious leader through his 18-hour day, doubling his energy and making hard work light. But in defeat there is no consolation to be found anywhere except in the reading and re-reading of Kipling's *If*; and

Mr Heath has no marked taste for poetry and the balm it may lay to the troubled soul.

For Mr Heath there is the bitterness of knowing that if he had stood his ground against those who would have him into a late February election he could still have been at No 10. Now he has lost two general elections in quick succession, and every day he awakens to lead into battle a party that openly searches for a new general. His proper place is in the wilderness, and he must find his way to a new leadership election procedure on which he must soon stand.

Nothing in Mr Heath's public performance of his duties since the trial began in Vinnitsa, the Shern case, is generally a run-of-the-mill case about swindling and bribe-taking, was raised to the rank of epoch-making ones, "the like of which has not been seen in the annals of modern British politics" (I quote Levin). Even before the preliminary investigation was completed and the indictment drawn up, in Britain and indeed in other countries, actions in defence of Shern were organized. Those who spoke calmly in advance that Shern was absolutely innocent. The possibility of Shern being guilty at all was rejected out of hand. There are still many letters, petitions and memoranda arriving in Vinnitsa, in which Shern is announced as not subject to law simply because he is a Jew.

Such an approach to Shern's defence, going beyond the bounds of common sense. In my accounts from Vinnitsa which were forwarded to you I wrote only about what I had seen and heard. The

## Consultants' threat of sanctions

From Professor Ian McColl  
Sir, As an independent member of the Owen Working Party, I wish to clarify certain features of the negotiations which seem to have caused some confusion.

First, in response to the professional request for a new contract in 1974, the Government offered its new consultants contract on December 20. The profession is under no obligation to accept, and may continue with the existing contractual arrangements which would continue to apply to future consultant appointments. Some consultants under the new contract have accepted, and they are applying to the profession. This is certainly not the case.

Secondly, the profession asked for the present open-ended contract to be closed and emergency work at nights and weekends to be paid for separately. It would be fair to state that the Government and the Department of Health and Social Security were opposed to this but later gave way. They have defined the closed contract as normally constituting a five-day week from 9 am to 5 pm. Clearly some definition is essential in order to allow extra payment for emergency work done out of hours. This definition is not rigid and in no way precludes other working hours such as 10 am to 6 pm or 8 am until 4 pm provided this is acceptable to the other members of the hospital team.

Thirdly, I have attended all the meetings of the working party, and have heard full discussions on most of the important aspects of the new contract. Naturally some discussions were curtailed in December due to the threat of sanctions. David Owen has been an honest and noticeably patient chairman who has compromised on many issues. He originally wished to pay those who did not practice contract hours more than those who did. Under the new contract, the differential to 18 per cent, which is approximately as it now stands, and which incidentally is offset somewhat by the favourable taxation arrangements enjoyed by those engaged in private practice. Originally the latter was intended to have career structure supplements but again he compromised over this issue.

Lastly, the frustration of the consultants can readily be understood. At a time of severe inflation they have seen earnings in the National Health Service falling far behind those of other professional bodies. Those working in hospitals far from large centres may lose as much as 50 per cent of their gross earnings when the pay beds are taken out. Mrs Castle has only running very high indeed and clearly what is required is a cooling-off period in the interests of patients and the medical profession, both of whom may suffer irreparable damage from the results of sanctions. The new contract is designed in the genuine belief that it would especially help those working in understaffed and unpopular situations. Many think it contains imperfections and uncertainties which need clarification. What is required in this crucial time is further discussion rather than precipitate action.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN McCOLL, Professor of Surgery,  
Guy's Hospital,  
10 Gilkes Crescent, SE21.

From Mr T. R. Beason  
Sir, Might I be allowed to comment on your leading article (December 27) on the hospital consultants' contract?

The trial of Dr Shern  
From Mr Boris Antonov  
Sir, I have read the letter by Michael Sherbourne you published (December 20), and decided that you probably do not have all the information. I see it is difficult for you to judge from London whether witness Gushwa cursed Dr Shern for swindling and deception or sang praises to him as the best of all doctors. But I think you will agree with me that no person can be declared not guilty *a priori*, without even knowing what he is charged with.

Yet, it was precisely so on the part of Bernard Levin and those who look to his article as the gospel truth. Mind you, even before the trial began in Vinnitsa, the Shern case, is generally a run-of-the-mill case about swindling and bribe-taking, was raised to the rank of epoch-making ones, "the like of which has not been seen in the annals of modern British politics" (I quote Levin). Even before the preliminary investigation was completed and the indictment drawn up, in Britain and indeed in other countries, actions in defence of Shern were organized. Those who spoke calmly in advance that Shern was absolutely innocent. The possibility of Shern being guilty at all was rejected out of hand. There are still many letters, petitions and memoranda arriving in Vinnitsa, in which Shern is announced as not subject to law simply because he is a Jew.

Such an approach to Shern's defence, going beyond the bounds of common sense. In my accounts from Vinnitsa which were forwarded to you I wrote only about what I had seen and heard. The

court is hearing the case publicly. But there is a group of people who are sending abroad deliberately distorted information about the trial. This is being done to arrange for pressure from abroad on the course of the proceedings and the verdict.

Knowing this, I was not surprised to see 19 witnesses, who in the first three days of the trial gave evidence fully exposing Milhail Shern as having exacted bribes and having deceived his patients. In Mr Sherbourne's letter to a choir singing lauding chants for Shern. Nor did I find it astonishing that in Sherbourne's letter the medical forensic commission led by Andrei Efimov, chief endocrinologist of the Ukraine, had been transformed into a commission headed by a certain Dr Kaminsky and had "vindicated" Shern. (The following is the composition of the experts' commission appointed by the court after Professor Kutchuk was challenged: Professor Efimov and Drs Kupersmidt, Olney and Danienko. The neuropathologist Kaminsky had nothing to do with the experts' commission.)

As for Professor Kutchuk, I told about his being challenged without naming him. I consider that to do so, as Mr Sherbourne did in his letter, is tantamount to libel.

At the same time, I cannot fail to express my satisfaction that my opponents are no longer claiming that Shern is being tried for "children poisoning". Respectfully yours,  
BORIS ANTONOV,  
Alphonsus Agency,  
Novosil Prost Agency,  
Pushkin Square,  
Moscow,  
December 23.

Indeed we stimulate it by advertising all planning applications. We accept that people feel deeply about these things. One does not encourage delays, but one must realize that the care with which planners and development committees must watch over the fact of our towns costs not only money but time. I have seen too many awful suggestions in planning applications over the past eight years to believe that we dare relax. Indeed for the sake of the citizens of our towns both today and in the future, we should tighten our control.

Yours etc,  
F. M. M. LEWES,  
Chairman, Exeter City Development Committee,  
Hope Cottage,  
43 Higher Shapter Street,  
Topsnam,  
Exeter, Devon.

## Human rights in European law

From Mr Neville March Hunnington  
Sir, It is very disturbing to read that the Commission of the European Communities is threatening the German Government as a result of the decision of the German Constitutional Court in the *Internationale Handelsgesellschaft* case. That it should be worried is understandable, for the German Government has a long history of which it has drafted itself against human rights provisions in a national constitution, especially when the Community has not yet developed its own Bill of Rights.

But in fact the judgment of the Constitutional Court is an extremely careful and wise interim solution to an insoluble problem that one had hoped would eventually be transcended through the European Court of Justice—the problem of the conflict between universal validity of Community legislation and the constitutionally entrenched fundamental rights of citizens, a conflict in which we, freshly under the impact of Lord Justice Scarman's far-sighted Hamlyn Lectures, can hardly afford to be complacent.

The Constitutional Court in the best tradition of post-war German justice, has a very close concern with the rights and liberties of the individual and was not prepared to see them surrendered by a mere treaty-ratification Act of the Federal Parliament—at least, not unless the Community itself were to accept an equivalent duty to protect them.

There is no written Bill of Rights in the Community treaties, it is only the European Court which can develop such protection through its case law; and in fact it had, within a few days of the German judgment, got so far as implicitly accepting the principle that the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights are enforceable in the Community legal system.

The trouble is that the European Court has shown, both in that case (*Volff*) and in its earlier decision in *Handelsgesellschaft* itself, a tenderness towards public expediency which does not go far to inspire confidence that it will truly protect the individual. It is that doubt which lies at the very heart of the German judgment (and of that of the court below).

If the European Court could show within the coming months, in a sufficiently strong test case, that it

## Housing the homeless

From Mr Christopher Booker and Mr Bennie Gray  
Sir, With respect to your editorial on December 17, two things have become supremely clear about the present appalling homelessness crisis. The first is that the only conceivable way the crisis can quickly and practicably be alleviated is to make some equation between the 100,000 people who are homeless and the total of anything up to 1,000,000 houses and flats that are lying empty and useless.

The second is that it is no good looking to Britain's local authorities for the solution, since they are themselves so much responsible for creating the crisis in the first place. London alone, anything up to half the 100,000 empty properties actually belong to local authorities—who in many cases are making the problem worse by crazy redevelopment programmes. Thousands of flats and houses bought under recent "municipalization" schemes (some in first-class condition) are standing empty, simply because local authorities do not have the resources or determination to get them into use.

This is an almost unbelievable national scandal. You rightly suggest that a part of the solution must be to create a special legal device to enable landlords to allow their

property to be used, in the knowledge that they will be given guaranteed vacant possession when it is actually needed. But when you also suggest that the job of filling empty properties be given to these same astonishingly complacent and inefficient local authorities, we could not differ with you more strongly.

The thought of creating yet another bureaucratic monster, specially to tackle this crisis, is indeed depressing. But a Housing Emergency Office (as suggested by Shelter) or an Empty Housing Agency (as we ourselves have proposed) need not be such a monster. All that is required is to find some way of harnessing the abundance of energy and expertise which already exists in the Housing Association movement, and in other local organizations. Given the legal powers and the money, we have confidence that the housing associations (comprising more than 2,000 people) could solve Britain's homelessness crisis in little more than a year. Make no mistake, the self-esteem of a number of local authorities might have to be punctured in the process. But it can and must be done.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER,  
BENNIE GRAY,  
*The Observer*,  
160 Queen Victoria Street, EC4,  
December 19.

off Ladysmith and pressing on to Durban, the only part in Natal available for landing the British reinforcements, then at sea. But they agreed that to press on in this difficult country with Ladysmith blocking the way would have been a formidable task. In short, Ladysmith wrecked their plans.

Those opinions were shared by one of the British who had fought with the British in Natal, and some letters written by relatives in Pietermaritzburg at that time and recently discovered expressed the view that their survival depended on the heroic defence of Ladysmith. Yours faithfully,  
CECIL NURCOMBE,  
Oakrow,  
Timbercombe,  
Minehead, Somerset,  
December 18.

Public lending right  
From Sir Brian Batsford  
Sir, I do not argue with my old friend Sir Robert Lusty over the need for some form of public lending right, but I do challenge his assertion (December 23) that "no author is at the mercy of his publisher".

With a few notable exceptions I would suggest that authors have always been shabbily treated by publishers and still are. That is why they have to employ literary agents to negotiate with publishers on their behalf.

There would be far less need for such devices as public lending right if publishers recognized that profits from successful books should be more fairly shared with other members of the book trade—especially authors and booksellers.

Yours faithfully,  
FRAN BATSFORD,  
19 Norfolk Road, NW8.

Cars in city centres  
From Mr J. M. Milner  
Sir, Congestion, noise, fumes, delay, fuel wastage and car bombs—ought we to impose severe restrictions on the entry of private cars into city centres?

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. MILNER, City Architect and Planning Officer,  
City of Cambridge,  
The Guildhall,  
Cambridge.

Siege of Ladysmith  
From Mr Cecil Nurcombe  
Sir, In his review of Kenneth Griffith's book on the siege of Ladysmith (December 16), Mr Pakenham criticizes Sir George White for defending the town. It is, of course, customary today to denigrate past heroes, but in this case the views expressed are in conflict with the conclusions of those who fought there.

I had many interesting and dispassionate discussions with good friends who were in the Boer commandos that invaded Natal in 1899. They took place more than fifty years ago when I was in the Eastern Transvaal, and when their memories were quite fresh. They held the view that General Buller was too old to command and that a younger man might have exploited their remarkable mobility by screening

them. I am sure that the Boer commandos would have been able to do so, but I am not sure that the British would have been able to do so. I am sure that the Boer commandos would have been able to do so, but I am not sure that the British would have been able to do so. I am sure that the Boer commandos would have been able to do so, but I am not sure that the British would have been able to do so.







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## President Ford axes 5pc surtax from 31-point plan to beat inflation

ail, Colorado, Dec 29.—President Ford has killed his proposal for a 5 per cent surtax included in a 31-point economic programme sent to Congress last October, administration sources said.

The President, now on a holiday here, reached his decision because of the changed economic situation, which finds recession worsening more slowly than expected.

Congress had opposed the surtax, which would have paid or a \$4,000m (about £1,700m) programme enacted recently to provide public service jobs and improved unemployment compensation.

Sources said the recession had become so severe the President, of a tax increase by reducing purchasing power would cause further damage to the economy.

It would have been paid by families earning \$15,000 or more a year, and individuals earning \$7,000 a year.

The President's decision means the cost of anti-recession programmes will increase the federal deficit—already projected unofficially as high as \$20,000m for this year.

Mr Ford is to announce a new economic programme when he appears before Congress in mid-January to deliver his State of the Union address.

After the President held an 11-day meeting with his economic advisers here yesterday, White House spokesman Mr

## New Soviet outburst on US Trade Reform Bill

From Edmund Stevens  
Moscow, Dec 29

America's Trade Reform Bill, linking most-favoured-nation treatment for the Soviet Union with liberalization of its emigration policy, continues to rattle Moscow.

Mr Boris Strelnikov, Pravda Washington correspondent, says that the Bill violates both the letter and spirit of the Soviet-American agreement on trade and consular relations signed at the 1972 Moscow summit.

He gives a warning that "such efforts at gross interference in Soviet internal affairs" could have repercussions.

At the same time Mr Strelnikov reports that publication of the Bill in the Soviet press is a "rejection of concessions on emigration and of the letter from Mr Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to the same effect made a big impression in the United States."

By contrast, the publication was welcomed, he said, by Americans who held that Soviet-American relations, especially in trade matters, should be based on equality and non-interference in each other's affairs.

Mr Strelnikov points out that though the two nations reached accord on eliminating discriminatory trade restrictions in 1972, Congressional action on the agreement was held up more than 20 months. During this time, he adds, top American businessmen and financiers have been urging Congress to ratify the agreement.

He quotes Mr Norris, president of Data Corporation, who told the Senate sub-committee on finance that trade with the Soviet Union could open up tremendous opportunities in the next 20 years.

Mr Daniel Goldy, the financier of Houston, Texas, is quoted as acquainting Congress with the findings of a National Association of Manufacturers poll that 83 per cent of American businessmen favoured expanding trade with Soviet Russia; only 11 per cent were opposed, while 6 per cent were undecided.

The Pravda correspondent also reports that Senator Hubert Humphrey challenged members of Congress who sought to restrict credits to the Soviet Union to name a single instance where the Russians had reneged on their obligations.

Mr Strelnikov says: "The debate in Congress on the Trade Bill and extension of the franchise of the Export-Import Bank has developed into a struggle for those who call for implementing the agreement reached with the Soviet Union and those who oppose it."

At the same time they are keeping their fingers crossed and their options open in the knowledge that the Bill passed by Congress requires the presidential signature to become law, and that Mr Ford will have wide powers of discretion, presumably, in the implementation.

It will be up to him to extend or withhold most-favoured-nation status.

The sentiments of Pravda's Washington correspondent, which are doubtless fully shared, not only by its editors but by the Kremlin leadership, reflect a deep resentment of having been double-crossed somehow.

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## Japan's economic planners predict that real domestic growth will improve 4.3 pc next year

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, Dec 29

As the Japanese look back on the past 12 months, which saw the country's booming economy crash to an estimated growth rate of minus 2 per cent, the nation was given some hope this weekend that the New Year might prove more auspicious.

Mr Takao Fukuda, deputy prime minister, told the cabinet that Japan's growth rate will begin to pick up within the next six months.

The Japanese saw their balance of payments position move one of the red for the third consecutive month, according to the latest official statistics for November.

Mr Fukuda, who is in charge of the economic planning agency, was submitting a report on Japan's economic future, which predicted the growth rate would rise to 15.5 per cent in nominal terms or 4.3 per cent in real terms.

He pointed out the report was based on the assumption that oil imports during the next year would remain at the same level of the 288 million kilolitres acquired in 1973 and that consumption would remain at 259 million kilolitres.

The government will continue to maintain a tight money policy as its chief weapon against inflation. Setting out the government's long term objectives, the report suggested the government should introduce other fiscal measures to keep the rate of inflation below 10 per cent by the end of the coming fiscal year.

Industries which have been hit particularly hard by the current recession will be given special assistance and consideration.

As a result the problems of unemployment—nearly a million are expected to be "obsolescent" before the end of the current fiscal year—would improve marginally by 0.4 per cent during the next fiscal year, Mr Fukuda said.

The report claims the sluggish rate of personal consumption, a key factor behind the slump in Japan's growth rate, will improve by 18.6 per cent in nominal terms or 6 per cent in real terms during the next fiscal year.

Investments in private housing, industrial plants and equipment will pick up after April, the report adds.

The coming year should also see Japan enter a period of trade surplus of \$5,200m (about £2,260m) during the next financial year, it says.

Future exports will amount to \$67,000m and imports to \$61,800m during the period. However, Japan's current account will run at a deficit of \$1,700m because of the weak position in invisible trade such as tourism and insurance, the report predicts.

In the meantime Mr Toshio Komoto, Japan's Minister of Trade and Industry, revealed that the government would embark upon a five-year plan during the coming fiscal year to build up the country's reserve stocks of oil. Under Mr Komoto's plan, stated by Mr Y. Nakasone, his predecessor, Japan will increase its oil reserves from a 60 to a 90-day supply.

Mr Komoto's ministry will seek a budget appropriation of £52m from the general account and another £253m from the fiscal loan and investment account next year to initiate the plan.

Peter Hill writes: Huge production cutbacks are being planned for the first two months of next year by Japan's textile spinners. The reductions in output, already being implemented, arise from the recession in the textile industry in Japan which is also affecting other countries.

Japan's Fair Trade Commission has approved cartel arrangements for the two months ending in February, following requests from the Japan Spinners and Japan Wool Spinners Associations, which had sought uniform production cutbacks for a six-month period.

The 168 members of the associations will cut out 35 per cent of all their spindles for the two month period and introduce several full day holidays which will reduce average production of cotton and synthetic yarns by 37.8 per cent and worsted yarns by 40 per cent.

The Fair Trade Commission has rejected a request from the industry that the cartel arrangements should extend to a freeze on inventory levels and imposition of coordinated restrictions on domestic shipments.

It noted that inventories of cotton yarn in Japan had risen by 26,000 metric tons by the end of October from 8,000 tons at the end of January. Wool stocks had risen from 20,000 tons at the end of January to 33,000 tons by August.

Demand for yarn, according to the FTC, was likely to rise again in the near future and it did not plan to approve any further extension to the two-month production cartel.

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## IBA moving quickly on radio station franchises

By Patricia Tisdall

Preliminary interviews are to be held next month by the Independent Broadcasting Authority for the remaining radio stations in the independent radio network. Franchises have to be granted to contractors for Belfast, Ipswich, Wolverhampton and Reading.

The authority is rushing through vetting procedures to enable the stations to meet the Government-imposed deadline and get on the air by the end of next year. The network has been frozen at 19 stations instead of the 60 envisaged by the Conservative government, until after the Autumn Committee on the future of broadcasting has reported.

IBA representatives will interview the contenders for Wolverhampton on January 7, Ipswich on January 14 and Belfast on January 21. The timetable allows only a few weeks after the final date for applications to be evaluated before the invites.

Despite lower than anticipated advertisement bookings and higher establishment costs met by London Broadcasting and Capital Radio, the two London pioneer stations, there is a feeling of optimism among prospective backers for commercial radio. In every region except Wolverhampton there has been more than one contender for the contract.

Mr John Whitney, managing director of Capital Radio, which is looking for extra contributions from shareholders to compensate for substantial over-spending in the inaugural period, says there are plenty of offers of funds.

Capital has closed its newsroom and from the beginning of next year will rely solely on the LBC originated Independent Radio News service. The closures created a saving of more than £60,000 a year.

Extra funds are also needed to finance a change from Capital's current temporary wavelength to a new and permanent place on the radio dial next year. Several major outside concerns are understood to be interested in providing the additional finance, including publishers Morgan-Grampian, which was part of an unsuccessful consortium competing for the franchise in London before Capital's appointment.

It is with interested shareholders in progress and according to Mr Whitney a decision is expected within a few weeks. Initial shareholders with 32.5 per cent, Local News of London with 15 per cent, Rediffusion with 15 per cent, Evening Standard with 11 per cent and The Observer with 8.5 per cent. It is not yet known whether all the extra funds now needed will come from these.

Mr Foster said it would be a tragedy if hard-won building skills were allowed to be dissipated through a falling workload at home.

He should therefore be glad to hear from any firm in the country willing to transfer some of its resources and capacities to countries where building work is going ahead," he said. "In this way, the opportunities for our industry to contribute to Britain's export drive are considerable."

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## Redistribution of oil funds the key issue now, Americans say

from Frank Vogt  
Washington, Dec 29

The United States Administration is not changing its mind on the major oil-consuming countries should finance their payments deficits. Senior officials say that there are broad disagreements between the Americans and other major industrial countries on this subject, despite numerous press reports to the contrary.

Members of the Economic Community have given only a lukewarm initial response to the recycling facility outlined by Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State.

A warmer response is now expected in Washington as a result of top-level meetings between Americans and European officials when full details of the proposals were explained.

American officials argue that the revenues obtained by oil-producing countries will continue to flow back into the markets of the leading consuming countries, as they have done in the past.

Further, it is pointed out that while the Arab producers have sufficient funds in Western markets to build a \$25,000m facility on the lines outlined by Dr Kissinger, in all probability they would not be willing to contribute anything like so much cash, irrespective of the yields offered to an IMF controlled facility.

These arguments, senior American officials now contend, are being widely accepted in such capitals as Bonn, Paris and Tokyo. One unanswered question, however, is how countries not in the group of majors or who need far more than they can obtain from the Kissinger facility, are to finance their deficits.

The Americans now take the view that the first instance part of this problem can be solved by urging the IMF to use to the full its existing lendable resources. Treasury officials say such resources total \$12,000m to \$14,000m in 1975.

The sums, they add, can be even larger in later years through increases in the quotas of IMF members.

Finally, for developing countries unable to pay commercial rates to finance their deficits, the Americans agree there should be a continuation and some expansion of the present IMF facility.

The full debate on these issues will come to the boil at a series of major ministerial meetings in Washington next month.

## Trawlermen in distress call to Government

By Business News Staff

Britain's fishing industry, already in the grip of the worst crisis it has experienced, is appealing for the Government to support measures designed to avert a drastic reduction in the size of the fishing fleet.

The British Trawlers' Federation wants more economic prices by adjusting the minimum auction price to move realistic levels. The industry is concerned that this could lead to a flood of imports, and the federation wants the Government to introduce measures to safeguard the position.

Leaders of the federation have suggested that a scheme be introduced similar to the one introduced for beef, where the Government has in effect underwritten the minimum price.

Without more remunerative prices the trawlermen argue, there must be a sharp reduction in the number of British fishing vessels in operation. This, it is

claimed, would seriously weaken the United Kingdom's bargaining position in negotiations over territorial limits and international quota levels.

Mr A. W. Suddaby, president of the BTF, underlined the serious nature of the industry's difficulties in a message published in the latest edition of *Trawling Times*, the federation's newspaper.

He said: "There is no disguising the fact that the prospect for the coming year is the bleakest we have ever faced and our industry is now entering an era of great change."

"We are going to fight on behalf of the whole nation for the future of the British trawling industry."

"Beyond our immediate financial problems, even bigger political problems are looming, with the almost certain advent of 200-mile fishing limits and the restrictions which must inevitably follow."

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## Guyana's sugar workers share record £1m bonus

From Our Correspondent  
Georgetown, Dec 29

Guyana's Sugar Producers' Association has announced that workers would receive an unprecedented \$65.5m (more than £1m) payout in production bonuses for 1974.

The association said workers would shortly receive another \$64m in production bonuses for the autumn crop which, together with the production bonus for the spring crop, brought the total bonus to \$65.5m.

This was more than workers

## North Sea will save £175m imports

From Peter Hazelhurst  
London, Dec 29

North Sea oil will save Britain about £175m in foreign exchange next year. It is estimated that 5 million tons of oil, 5 per cent of the nation's needs, will be brought ashore from the first five fields to come into production.













## Capitalization & week's change

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began Dec 24. Dealings End Jan 10. § Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 21.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

**For Really Discerning Drinkers**

# HIGH & DRY

Really Dry Gin

[illegible]



1 & DRY  
Dry Cleaning

PUBLIC NOTICES

# THE ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL

RAVENS COURT PARK, LONDON, W6 0TN

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Governors of the above-named Hospital will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, on Wednesday, the 29th day of January, 1975, at 12 noon, for the purpose of:-

- 1) Electing Honorary Officers.
- 2) Electing Members of the Board of Management.
- 3) Receiving and, if approved, adopting, Balance Sheets and Accounts, 30th June, 1974, and Report of the Board of Management.
- 4) Dealing with any other business regularly brought before the Meeting.

By direction of the Board of Management,

G. W. SMART, Secretary.

1st December, 1974.

Grand Patrons, Grand Vice-Patrons, Patrons, Vice-Patrons, Life Governors, Life subscribers and also duly appointed Representatives, being Freemasons, are cordially invited to the Meeting.

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

## UI NORTHERN GAS PIPELINES LTD.

Attention  
Linepipe Materials Manufacturers

UI Northern Gas Pipelines Limited invite tenders from manufacturers for supply of the following Linepipe materials n.c.f. Karachi Pakistan Basis:-

Tender Number	Material	Approx. Quantity	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
SN-3019/74	Linepipe	200 Miles	21-2-1975	21-2-1975
SN-3032/74	Plug Valves	145 Nos.	22-2-1975	22-2-1975
SN-3038/74	Gate Valves	1100 hours	22-2-1975	22-2-1975
SN-3039/74	Gas Filter	12 Nos.	24-2-1975	24-2-1975
SN-3040/74	Separators	1100 hours	24-2-1975	24-2-1975
SN-3041/74	30 Steel	81 Nos.	25-2-1975	25-2-1975
SN-3042/74	Bends	1100 hours	25-2-1975	25-2-1975
SN-3043/74	Gas Fibre	1100 hours	26-2-1975	26-2-1975
SN-3044/74	Inner Wrap	Rs. 100	26-2-1975	26-2-1975
SN-3045/74	Ball Valves	80 Nos.	27-2-1975	27-2-1975
SN-3055/74	Gas Turbines	5 to 9	28-2-1975	28-2-1975
	Centrifugal Units	5,000 to	28-2-1975	28-2-1975
	Compressors	3,000 h.p.		

Interested manufacturers are invited to apply for the Tender documents specifying the Tender Number to the following address:-  
The Managing Director,  
Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited,  
Monroo House, Montgomery Road,  
P.O. Box No. 56, LAHORE - PAKISTAN.  
Final tenders should be submitted to the Company before closing dates mentioned against each tender.

BUSINESS NOTICES

ERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before acting on any notice.

## STELLA FISHER TODAY

Spend our day interviewing people who make their careers in offices and many leading employers recruit staff through Stella Fisher. We are looking for people who can help us to find the right person for the job. If you are interested, please contact us today.

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01-836 6644

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